

FACT SHEET 19

FITNESS FOR TRANSPORT

PIGS FIT FOR TRANSPORT WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS

Hernia / Rupture

- No open skin wound
- No ulceration
- No obvious infection
- Not painful to the touch
- Does not touch the ground
- Does not impede movement (the hind legs do not touch the hernia when the pig is walking)

Runt pigs

- Not very thin
- No fever
- Better to gather them in the same compartment

Tail

- Slightly injured

Special provisions include:

- Direct transport to the nearest, local slaughterplant
- Do not take compromised pigs to a sale barn or assembly yard
- Extra bedding
- Loaded last, at the rear of the trailer; first to be unloaded
- Segregated from other animals

COMPROMISED PIGS FIT FOR TRANSPORT WITH SPECIAL PROVISIONS*

Injuries and wounds

- Acute penis injury
- Acute frostbite prior to transport
- Prolapsed rectum or vagina
- Open wound or deep cut (other than on a hernia)
- Abscess (no fever or suffering)

Health status

- Sows that have farrowed in the last 48 hours
- Unhealed castration
- Laboured breathing (noisy)
- Blindness
- Bloat (not weak or very thin)
- Lamé since birth

Lameness

- Can rise without assistance
- Can walk without assistance with weight on all four legs
- Imperfect mobility allowed

PIGS UNFIT FOR TRANSPORT*

Pigs that have a fever or are in pain should never be transported.

Hernia / Rupture

- With an open wound
- With an ulcer
- With an obvious infection
- Painful to the touch
- Touches the ground
- Impedes movement (the hind legs touch the hernia when the pig is walking)

Lameness

- Unable to rise without assistance
- Unable to remain standing without assistance
- Unable to put weight on a leg to walk

Injuries and wounds

- Wound that bleeds a lot
- Wound that causes suffering
- Wound that prevents pig from moving without assistance
- Wound that causes distress or exhaustion
- Pig in shock or dying
- Broken bones, affecting mobility
- Prolapsed uterus

Health status

- Fever
- Very thin (emaciated)
- Laboured breathing, exhaustion, distress or showing signs of stressed pig syndrome
- Bloat (if pig is weak or very thin)
- Sow likely to farrow soon (100+ days into gestation)

*Applies whether the pig has one or multiple conditions

RECOMMENDATIONS – AT THE FARM

Below are the on-farm recommendations for organizing the transport of compromised pigs. These approaches optimize the work of all personnel involved.

During production, a producer must:

- ☑ Identify problematic cases early
- ☑ Segregate and treat the pig(s) as soon as possible
- ☑ Decide to transport the pig(s) before they become unfit for transport
- ☑ Immediately euthanize pigs that do not respond to treatment

Prior to shipping, a producer must:

- ☑ Inform the transporter of possible compromised pigs while planning the transport to slaughter
- ☑ Talk about the compromised pig(s) with the transporter BEFORE loading
- ☑ Never hide an at-risk pig's condition from your transporter

A transporter must:

- ☑ Segregate compromised pigs in an appropriate compartment
- ☑ Evaluate if a pig will be able to move unassisted on its four legs once at the slaughterplant
- ☑ Make the final decision whether or not to load the compromised pig(s)
- ☑ Not load a compromised pig if its condition is likely to worsen as a result of transport
- ☑ Transport compromised pigs directly to slaughter WITHOUT first going to a sale or assembly yard

