



## Causes of Poor Pig Well-Being

The following situations or conditions can compromise animal well-being, and cause suffering:

- Neglect: failing to care for an animal, and:
  - Endangering an animal's health by not providing adequate food or water
  - Restraining an animal in a way that causes pain or jeopardizes animal health
- Cruelty and abuse: causing physical harm, mental harm, pain or suffering to an animal
- Abandonment: deserting an animal or leaving an animal without making provisions for the animal's long term care
- Negative feelings such as pain, fear, frustration and distress
- Prolonged periods of thirst or hunger
- Prolonged periods of restraint and immobility
- Illness, injury or disease
- Crowding

## Signs of Poor Pig Well-Being

- Pigs that are sick or in pain may not show obvious signs, but pigs that are ill or in pain may display some of the following behaviors or signs:
  - Inactivity
  - Reduced social interactions
  - Reduced feeding and drinking
  - Increased huddling, shivering, sleeping or resting
  - Dull, dirty hair and skin
  - Dull eyes
  - Injuries or sores anywhere on the body
  - Use the same area for resting and bathroom
  - Inability to get up from a lying position
  - Discharge from the eyes, nose or other areas
  - Vomiting

## Do You Have an Animal Well-Being Concern?

- Call your local police department.
- For livestock and poultry concerns, contact the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) <http://www.in.gov/boah/>.

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## Pig Well-Being



## Quick Pig Facts

- Female pigs are called gilts (females that have not reproduced) or sows (females that have reproduced)
- Male pigs are called boars (intact males) or barrows (castrated males)
- Pigs have few sweat glands, so they do not sweat much. Pigs cool down by rolling in mud



## What is Pig Well-Being?

Pig well-being is more than simply being healthy; pig well-being includes:

1. Feelings or emotions, such as contentment
2. Being able to behave naturally, such as grooming, stretching and turning around fully
3. being healthy; having no injuries or disease

## Important Behaviors

- **Feeding and drinking:** necessary for health and proper biological functioning
- **Rooting:** using the snout to push or nudge something. Important behavior that pigs use to explore their environment
- **Nesting:** sows look for nesting material and try to build nests before they farrow (give birth), even if nesting material such as straw is not available



## Behaviors of Concern

- **Aggression:** occurs when unfamiliar pigs are mixed and when pigs are housed in groups with little space
- **Tail biting:** develops in piglets that are weaned early (before 5 weeks of age), piglets that are kept in bare (barren) environments, and pigs that are crowded. Causes pain and can lead to injury and death. Tail docking reduces, but does not prevent tail biting.
- **Belly nosing:** piglets rub their noses against the bellies of other pigs, causing sores and injuries. Develops in piglets that are weaned early
- **Vacuum chewing and bar biting:** sows that are tethered or kept in individual crates or stalls develop vacuum chewing (chewing without having food in the mouth) or bar biting (bite the bars of the stall or crate). Prevented by housing sows in groups with access to bedding.

## Caring for Pigs

- Provide constant access to fresh, clean water.
  - Water should never be frozen.
- Provide appropriate feed
  - Do not give pigs moldy feed
  - Energy and nutritional requirements of animals are higher for 1) pregnant animals, 2) animals that are producing milk, 3) animals that are growing and 4) cold stressed animals
  - Consult a nutritionist for proper feed practices



- Provide housing or shelter that:
  - Has adequate ventilation
  - Has dry floors with good traction
  - Has enough space so that pigs have separate resting and bathroom areas
- Move pigs in a calm manner
  - Use “sorting boards” (wooden or plastic panels) to move pigs
- Check animals at least once daily for diseases, parasites and injuries - contact your local veterinarian if you detect these problems