



BEST PRACTICE PIG WELFARE IN TRANSPORT

The abattoir plays a key role in ensuring a high standard of pig welfare during stunning and slaughter. Management practices during loading, transport and unloading can also impact pig welfare at the abattoir.

STOCK HANDLING

- ▶ Handle pigs quietly and calmly
- ▶ Move pigs in groups at a walk
- ▶ Set up ramps and races before movement
- ▶ Avoid using electric prodders

Stock handling is the most crucial factor that impacts pig welfare at the abattoir.

Drivers should handle pigs quietly and calmly. Pigs should be moved in small groups rather than individually. They shouldn't be made to walk faster than they naturally do.

Ramps and raceways should be set up before any movement and clear of any obstacles; there should be no hazards that may distract the pigs or cause them to slip, fall or injure themselves.

Handling aids like stock boards and paddles should be used. Electric prodders should be avoided as they are highly stressful to pigs.

SOCIAL GROUPS

- ▶ Where possible, avoid mixing groups of pigs

Try to not mix different consignments of pigs. Mixing may cause pigs to fight to establish a new social hierarchy. Mixing pigs increases the risk of undesirable behaviours like mounting.

Skin damage (cuts, scrapes, and bruising) may be more prevalent in mixed pigs.

LAIRAGE DENSITY

- ▶ Do not overcrowd pigs in lairage

All pigs should have room to lie down and rest, stand up and turn around. They must have enough room to escape from any aggressive pigs in the same pen.

Additional space should be considered in warmer conditions to allow increased airflow.

EXTREME TEMPS

- ▶ Consider the weather when transporting pigs

Both hot and cold weather can negatively impact pig welfare during transport and cause stress and discomfort.

Pigs should not travel in the hottest part of the day, but if this is not possible, using sprinklers and reducing the stocking density on the truck can help pigs cope.