

# **Appendix 6: Sample Standard Operating Procedure for the Care of Sick or Injured Pigs**

## **1. Pain Control**

### **Introduction:**

It is important to minimize the pain and discomfort of the animals. Although often subjective, indications of pain may include:

1. Vocalization.
2. Lesions that are red, swollen, or hot.
3. Elevated heart and respiratory rate.
4. Inability to move, stand, rise, or use a limb.
5. Shaking

### **Standards:**

Treatment protocols have been established to ensure sick animals are appropriately cared for. Individuals must be familiar with the barn protocol. Guidelines for pain control are outlined in these protocols (for example; recumbent non-ambulatory; down sows should be humanely euthanized). If there are any individual, exceptional cases (not outlined in the protocol), a veterinarian should be contacted the day the animal is noticed. A plan (or prescription drug) will be made for that animal to make it as comfortable as possible.

### **Procedure:**

Follow treatment protocols. Contact herd health veterinarians with the specifics of exceptional cases. A plan will be given immediately.

### **Monitor:**

Individual animals will be monitored by staff daily. Monitoring will be done frequently (2-3 times/day) during high risk outbreak situations. Treatment protocols will be reviewed and updated as necessary. Veterinarians will monitor regularly.

## **2. Treatment**

### **Introduction:**

Intensive livestock production requires the knowledge and treatment of disease. Your Veterinarian has developed a treatment protocol for your barn that outlines the disease, clinical signs, and treatment of common ailments. Other health considerations include sanitation and disinfection, biosecurity, disease monitoring protocols, vaccinations, and overall management. All staff must know current protocols, and where the reference is located.

**Standards:**

- See also:
- Barn Treatment Protocols
  - Biosecurity Protocols
  - Disinfection Protocols
  - Vaccination Protocols
  - Management SOP's
    - \* Ventilation
    - \* Heat
    - \* Sanitation

**Procedures:**

Follow above protocols. Any exceptional cases a herd health veterinarian will be contacted immediately and a plan devised.

**Monitor:**

Barn workers will check animals a minimum once daily for abnormalities (disease, injury, or competitiveness). Managers and Veterinarians will monitor regularly.

**3. Rectal Prolapses****Introduction:**

Rectal prolapses occur as a result of:

- piling caused by drafts or chilling
- increased coughing or sneezing
- diarrhea
- certain medications

Leaving prolapses unrepaired is inhumane and may result in a rectal stricture.

**Standards:**

Rectal prolapses where greater than two centimeters of mucosa (pink/red rectal inside) is protruding, and less than 12 - 24 hours old, must be surgically repaired. Prolapses less than 2 cm should be separated and allowed to return to normal; if it has not within 12 hours it should be surgically repaired. Prolapses older than 24 hours should be segregated in a sick/hospital pen and repaired with a Profix tube.

Profix tubes are plastic tubes that can be inserted into the rectum and secured with calf elastrator rings. This causes the prolapse to fall off and the tube to function as a rectum and prevent stricture (healing closed).

**No animal can be transported until prolapse is healed.**

**Procedure:**Nursery/Grower

- replace the day they occur.
- restrain between legs or hang over a board; sedate if necessary.
- wear gloves.
- use local anaesthetic injected around the anal area.
- wash the prolapse with warm water and disinfectant soap - gently reduce (place back in).
- use a double strand of 2.0 or 3.0 catgut and place a purse string suture around the rectum with a large cutting needle.
- tie the suture in 2 knots at the top under the tail and cut the ends short.
- you should be able to place 1 large finger in the rectum.
- wipe the pig so it is free of blood.
- the suture will dissolve.
- treat the underlying problem (scours, crowding, chilling).
- keep separated if possible.

Sows/Adult Animals

- replace the day they occur.
- sedate and restrain.
- use an anaesthetic ring block around the affected opening (rectum or vagina)
- wash with warm water and disinfectant soap.
- gently reduce.
- use umbilical tape to place a purse string suture around the affected opening.
- you should be able to pass 2 fingers into the opening.
- cull the animal as soon as possible.

**Monitor:**

Barn workers monitor daily. Managers and veterinarians monitor regularly.