

FACT SHEET 19

FITNESS FOR TRANSPORT

PIGS FIT FOR TRANSPORT

Fit pigs are completely sound. Some limited conditions still allow the pigs to be transported without special measures, such as:

Minor hernia / rupture

- No open wound, ulceration or obvious infection
- Does not cause pig to show signs of pain or suffering
- Does not touch the ground
- Does not impede movement (does not touch the hind legs when the pig is walking)
- Does not swing while the pig is walking (less than 15 cm in diameter)

Runt pigs

- Not very thin
- No fever
- Not compromised or unfit due to another condition

(Best practice is to group runt pigs together in the same compartment)

Minor tail bites

- Minor wound, not very swollen and not causing pig to show signs of pain or suffering

Special measures include:

- Shipping to the nearest suitable place (cannot be an assembly or sales yard)
- Not removing feed, water or rest for longer than 12 hours
- Isolating it on the trailer by itself or with one other compatible pig
- Loading and unloading it individually, without using internal trailer ramps
- Additional measures to protect their well-being, such as extra bedding or loading last and unloading first

COMPROMISED PIGS FIT FOR TRANSPORT WITH SPECIAL MEASURES *

Injuries and wounds

- Acute penis injury
- Acute frostbite
- Minor rectal or vaginal prolapse (fresh or repaired, and not inflamed, bitten, torn or very swollen)
- Unhealed, swollen tail bite, but not causing pig to show signs of pain or suffering

Health status

- Unhealed castration
- Laboured breathing (noisy)
- Blind in both eyes
- Mild bloat, with no signs of discomfort or weakness
- Lameness or deformed since birth (with no signs of pain)
- Sow in peak lactation, with full, swollen udder, likely painful in transport

Lameness

- Can rise and walk without assistance on all four legs
- Imperfect walk (e.g. any limp), but pig is not reluctant to walk and does not show halted movement

Moderate hernia / rupture

- More than 15 cm in diameter and swings when the pig walks

PIGS UNFIT FOR TRANSPORT *

Pigs that have a fever or are showing signs of pain or suffering should never be transported.

* "Unfit" conditions always overrule "compromised" conditions

Severe hernia / rupture

- Has an open wound, ulceration or obvious infection
- Causes pig to show signs of pain or suffering
- Touches the ground
- Impedes movement (hind leg(s) touch the hernia when the pig is walking)

Lameness

- Unable to rise or remain standing without assistance
- Unable to put weight on a leg
- Halted movement or a reluctance to walk (in pain or suffering)

Injuries and wounds (including tail bites)

- 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
- Severe rectal or vaginal prolapse (inflamed, bitten, torn or very swollen)

Health status

- Signs of a fever (temperature greater than 40°C)
- Very thin (emaciated)
- Laboured breathing, exhaustion or distress
- Signs of dehydration, heat stress or cold stress
- Stressed pig syndrome (trembling, difficulty breathing and/or discoloured skin)
- Bloat with signs of discomfort or weakness
- Sow that is 100+ days pregnant
- Sow that has farrowed in the last 48 hours

It is possible for other conditions to render a pig as compromised or unfit for transport. For more information, contact your provincial pork organization or your nearest CFIA area office, or visit CFIA's website: inspection.gc.ca/humane.

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 should:

- ☑ Identify problematic cases early
- ☑ Segregate and treat the pig(s) as soon as possible
- ☑ Decide whether 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:

- ☑ Evaluate if a pig will be able to move unassisted on its four legs once at its destination
- ☑ Not load a compromised pig if its condition is likely to worsen as a result of transport
- ☑ Make the final decision whether or not to load the compromised pig(s)
- ☑ Isolate compromised pigs in an appropriate compartment (maximum of 2 pigs)
- ☑ Transport compromised pigs directly to slaughter WITHOUT first going to a sales or assembly yard



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