




Section 7.6

Care of Sick and Injured Pigs

REFERENCED IN THIS SECTION:

Number/ Identifier	Name	Importance
	STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE	
7.6	Care of Sick and Injured Pigs	Mandatory
	RECORD	
R-B	Training Record	
R-M	Mortality Record	
R-P	Medications and Vaccine Usage Plan	Mandatory
R-T	Treatment Record	
R-O	Observation Record	Highly recommended
	FACT SHEET	
F-17	Euthanasia Decision Tree	–

SECTION 7.6

CARE OF SICK AND INJURED PIGS

REQUIREMENTS

1. A SOP for the Care of Sick and Injured Pigs (SOP 7.6) must be developed in consultation with a licensed veterinarian and adequately implemented. The SOP must include the following:
 - a. The observation of all pigs at least daily for detection of sickness, injuries and behavioural vices (e.g., tail-biting).
 - b. The investigation of causes and management of behavioural vices.
 - c. Measures for segregating, treating and monitoring pigs, according to their condition.
 - d. Factors for deciding when to euthanize pigs.
 - e. Factors for deciding when to contact the herd veterinarian, including for suspicion of reportable diseases.

For your convenience, a template for the Care of Sick and Injured Pigs (SOP 7.6) has been developed for you to use.

RATIONALE

- a. Animals need to be assessed on an ongoing basis for illness and injuries to ensure they are treated promptly, effectively and humanely in order to avoid suffering and prevent the spread of infectious disease to other animals.
- b. The presence of behavioural vices and/or aggression usually indicates that the well-being of the pigs has been compromised.
- c. Vices may result in self-injury or the injury of other animals. Early identification and resolution of these issues can reduce the occurrence of health problems.
- d. Certain conditions require pigs to be segregated from other pigs to prevent their condition from worsening and to allow them to recover. Segregation in a separate area also reduces the likelihood of communicable diseases spreading from sick pigs to healthy ones.

GUIDANCE

- a. Sick or injured pigs often benefit from being segregated in an area where they can recover without having to compete with healthy pen mates for food, water and comfortable lying areas.
- b. Promptly euthanize pigs not responding to treatment, pigs with untreatable conditions that compromise welfare and pigs that cannot be transported humanely.
- c. Behavioural vices are often multi-factorial and can indicate problems with the environment, feed or other factors.
- d. The most common behavioural vices include ear-biting, tail-biting, belly-nosing and aggression.
- e. While completing your daily observations, it is recommended that you use a temperature record, or any type of daily record, and a camera to demonstrate that the monitoring of the animals was completed.

AUDIT QUESTIONS

Q#	Audit Questions and Interpretation	Verification				
		Compliant	NC-Minor	NC-Major	NC-Critical	N/A
Q7.6.1	Verify that a Care of Sick and Injured Pigs SOP has been developed, signed by a licensed veterinarian, and includes all required elements.	Full and partial validation: > SOP 7.6: Care of Sick and Injured Pigs				
	Has an SOP for the Care of Sick and Injured Pigs been developed in consultation with a licensed veterinarian that includes all PigCARE-required elements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Q7.6.2	Verify that a Care of Sick and Injured Pigs SOP is adequately implemented on-farm. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Pigs are observed daily. Barn personnel are capable of detecting injuries, sick animals and behavioural vices. Sick or injured pigs are treated, segregated and monitored according to the SOP or appropriately for their condition. Pigs are euthanized in a timely manner according to the SOP or appropriately for their condition. 	Full and partial validation: > interview > observation (full validation only) > SOP 7.6: Care of Sick and Injured Pigs > R-P: Medications and Vaccine Usage Plan > R-T: Treatment Record > R-M: Mortality Record > R-B: Training Record				
	Is the Care of Sick and Injured Pigs SOP adequately implemented on-farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Q7.6.3	Verify that the site has the ability to segregate sick or injured pigs in a separate area.	Full and partial validation: > interview > observation (full validation only)				
	Does the site have the ability to segregate sick or injured pigs in a separate area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

N/A = not applicable; SOP = standard operating procedure



LEVELS OF COMPLIANCE – EXAMPLES

COMPLIANT

- › A Care of Sick and Injured Pigs SOP is available with all required elements included.
- › There is evidence that a Care of Sick and Injured Pigs SOP is being adequately implemented.
- › There are no pigs on-farm that currently need to be euthanized.

MINOR NON-COMPLIANCE **Timeline: 60 days**

- › The Care of Sick and Injured Pigs SOP is incomplete or unavailable.
- › The site does not have the ability to segregate sick or injured pigs in a separate area.

MAJOR NON-COMPLIANCE **Timeline: 30 days**

- › A Care of Sick and Injured Pigs SOP is not adequately implemented:
 - ›› Pigs are not being observed daily.
 - ›› Sick and injured pigs are not being treated, segregated or monitored according to the plan or appropriately for their condition.
 - ›› Barn personnel are not capable of detecting injuries, sick animals or behavioural vices.

CRITICAL NON-COMPLIANCE **Timeline: 24 hours**

- › There is a pig on-farm, which was observed by barn personnel in its current condition, that should have already been euthanized following SOP 7.10 Euthanasia:
 - i. the pig was in severe pain/suffering that was not immediately treatable or
 - ii. the pig was sick, injured, in pain or suffering and was
 - ›› unlikely to recover
 - ›› untreatable
 - ›› treated but its condition was worsening
 - ›› not responding to treatment, or
 - ›› unfit for immediate transport.