

"Should this Pig be Loaded?" Decision Tree

SHOULD THIS PIG BE LOADED?

Guidelines for Transporting Pigs

LOAD HEALTHY PIGS

Do Not Transport to a Sale or an Assembly Yard

Transport with Special

Provisions***

Do Not Load Do Not Transport – Unfit

Delay Transportation

- Dehydration
- Fever (rectal temperature > 39.5°C)
- Sows that have farrowed within 48 hours, or likely to farrow during transport or upon arrival at destination (100 or more days of gestation)
- Recent surgery (not healed) (e.g. castration)
- Stressed pigs showing any signs of
 - Exhaustion (refuses to move)
 - Heat stress
 - Weakness
 - Trembling
 - Laboured breathing
 - Skin discolouration/ blotchy patches

Euthanize On-Farm

- Non-Ambulatory*
- In shock or dying
- Emaciated (extremely thin)
- Fractured or amputated leg or fractured pelvis
- Other fractures that considerably hamper mobility or are likely to cause severe pain when the animal is manipulated for loading or when it is being transported
- Exposed bone
- Arthritis involving multiple ioints
- · Prolapsed uterus
- Rectal stenosis with distension and which renders the animal weak or down
- Hernia**
- Suffering from severe nonresponsive disease
- Severe recent injury

Direct to Slaughter

- Ambulatory pig: a pig that can walk and rise without assistance, and:
 - Is visibly lame but can keep up with the group
 - Is unable to keep up with other animals;
 has some difficulty climbing ramps
- Abscess and local infection (no fever)

Transport As Soon As Possible

- Prolapsed vagina or rectum
- Inguinal or umbilical hernias other than those defined under Do Not Transport
- · Acute or unhealed penis injury
- Severe dewclaw injury
- First stage anorexia, or weight loss (no fever)
- Open wound (pig may be unfit depending on severity of wound)
- Acute frostbite
- Blindness
- · Severe tail bite or vulva bite
- Smoke inhalation

Pigs with multiple conditions may not be fit for transport

* Non-Ambulatory Animals - an animal that cannot walk or that:

- Is unable to rise or remain standing without assistance
- Is unable to move without being dragged or carried
- Has difficulty rising or needs additional time to rise
- Is reluctant to walk or exhibits halted movement
- After splitting, cannot walk
- Suffers severe pain when walking, or requires assistance to remain standing

** Hernia includes at least one of the following criteria:

- Impedes movement
- Painful on palpation
- Touches the ground when the pig is standing in its natural position
- Includes an open skin wound, ulceration, or obvious infection

*** Special Provisions include:

- Extra bedding
- Loading in a rear compartment
- Separation from other animals
- Penning with a familiar companion animal
 Local transport only
- Transport direct to the nearest suitable place where the animal can be properly cared for, slaughtered or euthanized
- Other measures as appropriate

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If an animal has difficulty walking or loading, it is likely that the animal will go down during transport. It is also very likely that it will be subjected to additional suffering and/or injury from trampling as a result of becoming non-ambulatory during the journey. If this is the case, transportation is not recommended.

EMERGENCY ON-FARM SLAUGHTER

If an animal is fit for human consumption, but not fit for transport (i.e. injured but not sick) emergency on-farm slaughter may be an option. Consult with your provincial government for more information on the availability of emergency on-farm slaughter in your province.

Any animal may be loaded for transport for veterinary treatment under veterinary supervision.

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