

SOP No: ATT 022

SUBJECT: Pig handling and restraint

POLICY: Minimum number of 2 operators required.

Demonstrator: Experience in the procedure.

Students: Understanding of pig handling principles. Procedures should be clearly demonstrated before students work with pigs.

PRECAUTIONS: Ensure that all OH&S conditions on lifting are met.
Wear steel-capped rubber boots and appropriate sun protection as required.
Overalls, ear muffs or plugs.
Do not use electric prodders or hit animals.
Wash hands and exposed body parts thoroughly with soap and water after handling animals.
Sows with young piglets may become aggressive towards staff in their environment.
Do not attempt to work with piglets while within reach of the sow's head.
Weaners may startle easily so minimise movement and noise when working with them.
Do not restrain pigs for longer than is ethically approved.
Pens and laneways free of obstructions.

EQUIPMENT: Drafting boards

PROCEDURE:

1. Moving. When moving pigs, use drafting boards and or pig paddles to control pigs and protect operator. Pig boards must be held low in front of handler so pigs cannot see underneath – this encourages pigs to move ahead. Pigs must not be hit or kicked to encourage movement.
2. Take extra care if floor surfaces are wet and slippery.
3. Ensure laneways and passages are clear as this will encourage pigs to move forward.
4. Piglets - When handling piglets, pick up by one hind leg above the hock, lift up and then support body with other hand underneath piglet.
5. Larger piglets (weaners) may be picked up by grabbing one hind leg and lifting up. It is then restrained by holding under one arm with the other arm supporting the weight of the piglet under its belly. Hold one foreleg if further restraint is required. If required to collect a blood sample, restrain pig on its back on the a flat surface with one person holding hind legs out straight, one person holding front legs flat towards pig's belly and another person holding the pig's head down with hand over lower jaw to hold mouth shut.
6. Medium pigs may be restrained by standing astride them with one operator's leg on each shoulder of the pig. The pigs may be held for further restraint.
7. Adult pigs are restrained using a snout snare around the upper jaw, caudal to the canines. If the pig struggles, the snare will tighten around the animal's nose and the animal will tend to sit down against the wall. The rope can then be tied to a secure post at the

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animal's head height or held by second person while first person collects blood etc.

8. **Health inspection:** With the animal restrained perform a physical examination by checking the eyes, ears, mouth, gums, feet, udder, genitalia, rectum and coat for any signs of external parasites. Inspect faeces.

On completion of procedure observe animal for signs of distress.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

DATE ISSUED: 24.06.2009

REVISED:

REFERENCES

1. <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/animal-welfare/general/other/livestock/sop/pigs/restraint>