



Tail bites

Why is it important at the moment?

Årsmøde Vet-Team 12.11.19

What is a tail bite?



- ▶ Pig is bitten in the tail by another pig
 - Inflammation (red, thick)
 - Infection (Bacteria in the blood)
 - Infections in other organs (spine, legs)
 - Pain
 - Welfare



- Pigs like the blood taste – there will soon be more bites

How do we prevent tail bites?



- ▶ Tail docking
 - Within first 2–4 days
 - Max. ½ of the tail



New rules from January 2019



- ▶ 1. Register all tail bites
- ▶ 2. Make risk assesment
- ▶ If no bites and no risks → no tail docking



New rules from January 2019



- ▶ 1. Register all tail bites
 - Date, how many, how bad
 - Picture
 - Write on paper (treatment or no treatment)



How do we recognize tail bites?



- ▶ No tail
- ▶ Bad legs, lame (often no fresh tail bite)
- ▶ Thick red tail
- ▶ Red/Blood in tip
- ▶ **Hanging tails**



How do we recognize tail bites?



- ▶ **Hanging tails** – 1 week before bites
- ▶ Obs from 2–3 weeks after weaning to 70kg
- ▶ Change in behavior



New rules from January 2019



- ▶ 2. Make risk assessment
 - The stable is checked for risk factors
 - A plan is made to eliminate risk factors



What is the risk factors?



- ▶ Frustration! Because of....
 - Limited toys



What is the risk factors?



- ▶ Frustration! Because of....
 - Limited toys
 - To cold/to warm/draught



Smågrise, to-klimastald med delvist fast gulv

Dag	1	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56
Vægt, kg	5,5	6	7	8,5	11	15	18	25	30
Temp. u. overdæk. ° C	31-32	30-31	29-30	28-29	27-28	26-27	25-26	22-23	21-22
Gulv u. overdæk. ° C	32	32	32	32	32	Slukket	Slukket	Slukket	Slukket
Ønsket rumtemp.*, ° C	25-26	24	24	23	22	21	20	19	18
Ønsket fugt**, %	60	61	61	62	63	64	70	71	72

Slagtesvin, delvist fast gulv

Vægt, kg	25	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Diffust luftindtag**, ° C	18	17	16	16	15	14	14	13	13
Stråleventilation, ° C	20	20	19	18	17	16	15	15	15

Slagtesvin, fulldrænet gulv

Vægt, kg	25	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Diffust luftindtag**, ° C	20	19	18	18	17	16	16	15	15
Stråleventilation, ° C	21	20	20	19	19	18	18	18	18

What is the risk factors?



- ▶ Frustration! Because of....
 - Limited toys
 - To cold/to warm/wind



What is the risk factors?



- ▶ Frustration! Because of....
 - Limited toys
 - Too cold/too warm/wind
 - **To many pigs in a pen**



What is the risk factors?



- ▶ Frustration! Because of....
 - Limited toys
 - Too cold/too warm/wind
 - Too many pigs in a pen
 - **Limited feed**



What is the risk factors?



- ▶ Frustration! Because of....
 - Limited toys
 - Too cold/too warm/wind
 - Too many pigs in a pen
 - Limited feed
 - **Limited water**



What is the risk factors?



- ▶ Frustration! Because of....
 - Limited toys
 - Too cold/too warm/wind
 - Too many pigs in a pen
 - Limited feed
 - Limited water
 - **Disease**



What to do in pens with hanging tails



Give extra and new toys

Check food

Check water

Check temperature

What to do in pens with hanging tails



- ▶ Move the pig/pigs that bites
 - Look at the pen for 5 min.
 - Sudden scream (=offer)
 - Pigs with lifted head chewing (=biter)
- ▶ (Or move the pigs with tail bites)



What to do in pens with tail bites



- ▶ +Treat all pigs with red and thick tails
 - Move to sick pen
 - Kill if too bad / no effect of treatment after 3 days



What to do in pens with tail bites



- ▶ Give extra and new toys – change daily
- ▶ Open door in pen
- ▶ Check pigs often – between 8–10 and 15–17
- ▶ Check healing – no fresh blood next day



What to do in pens with tail bites

- ▶ Types of toys?
 - Straw on floor
 - Straw in trough
 - Wood in chain
 - Wood in box
 - Sisal rope
 - Mineral stone
 - Others...?



Summary



- ▶ Check for hanging tails
 - do something **before** it becomes a bite
- ▶ Check the risk factors and eliminate them
- ▶ Make sure they have toys
- ▶ Treat if necessary
 - **before** it causes leg disease
- ▶ Remember to register all tail bites

