Assessing pig welfare during long road journeys

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WHY ASSESSING THE WELFARE OF PIGS DURING TRANSPORT?

(Source: TRACES, 2011)
Objective

To develop a protocol for the welfare assessment of pig transport as a foundation for a certification scheme for transporters operating on long journeys

3 parts:

- Resource, truck and transport based parameters
- Fitness to travel at departure (drivers checklist)
- Animal and management based measures
Multidimensional assessment

4 Principles

According to how they are experienced by animals
Multidimensional assessment

Absence of prolonged hunger
Absence of prolonged thirst
Comfort around resting
Thermal comfort
Easy of movement
No injuries
No diseases
No painful management procedures
Expression of oother behaviour
Expression of social behaviour
Good human animal relationship
Positive emotional state
12 Criteria

Measures

Good feeding
Good housing
Good health
Appropriate behaviour

12 Criteria
## Animal welfare measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Resource based</th>
<th>Animal based</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thermal comfort</td>
<td>Temperature, Ventilation, Showers</td>
<td>Shivering, huddling, panting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ease of movement</td>
<td>Ramp</td>
<td>Slipping, falling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emotional state</td>
<td>Light, noise</td>
<td>Reluctant to move, turning back</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Animal vs. Resource based

**Resource based (Quality of life)**

- High practicability and repeatability
- Individual differences (genetic, experience)
- Difficult to compare between transport systems

**Animal based (Quality of living)**

- Physiological, health and behavioral measures
- Reflection of the actual welfare state
- Comparison between transport systems
- Transparent to stakeholders
- More difficult to assess
Measures at arrival and during unloading

- Slipping
- Falling
- Reluctance to move
- Turning back
- Sever lameness
- Mortality
Measures in the pen after unloading

- Body condition
- Sick pigs
- Cleanliness
- Shivering/sweating/panting
- Wounds on the body
- Health
Conclusions

- The assessment of animal health and welfare upon arrival is feasible in practice using the developed protocols.

- Animal based measures should be included in future certification schemes.
Who can use the protocol?

- Transporters,
- Animal welfare officers
- Control post owners after previous training

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Thank you for your attention

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