

Feasible solutions to producing intact pigs: an introduction

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66th
EAAP
ANNUAL MEETING



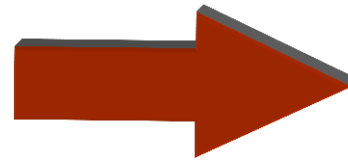
MUTILATION



Teeth clipping



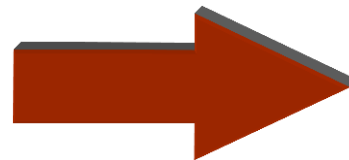
Castration



ACUTE PAIN



Tail docking



Acute and chronic pain

Tail docking

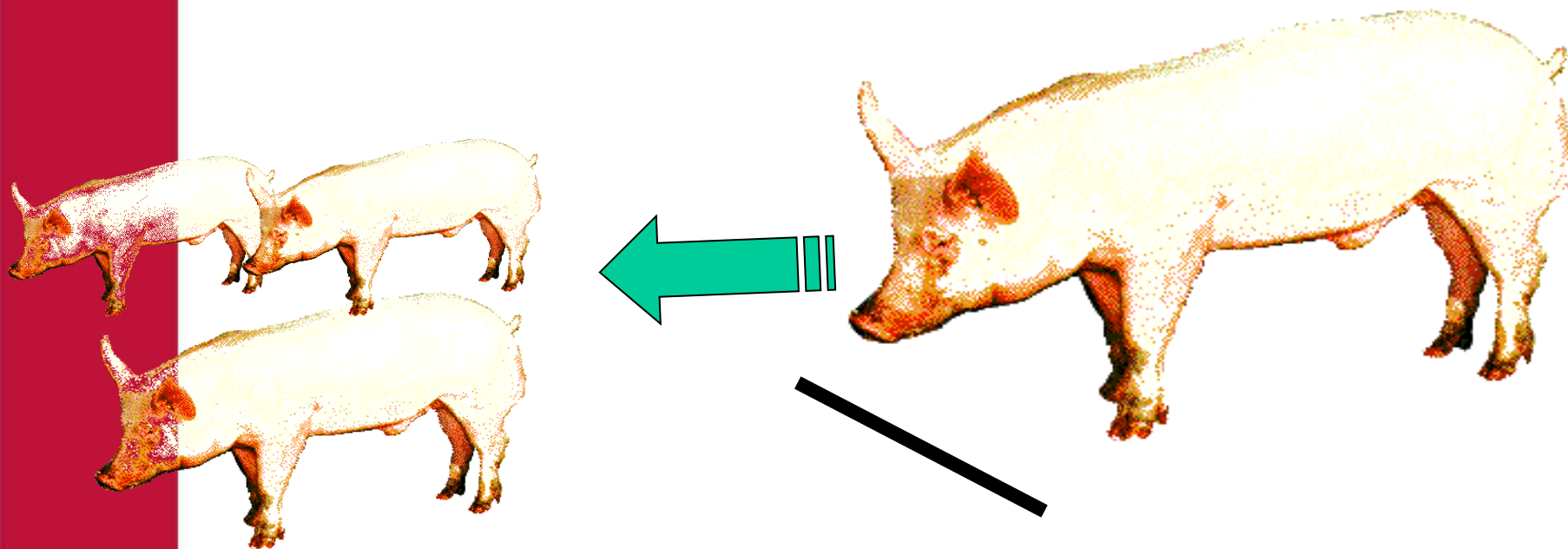
Is likely to cause

- immediate pain
- prolonged pain from neuroma formation

Is detrimental to the welfare of pigs



Low level of sensory input



In barren pens with concrete or slatted floor pigs could not perform foraging behaviour

Tail docking



- Only where there is evidence of Injuries
- Before, other measures shall be taken to prevent tail-biting
 - Permanent access to a sufficient quantity of material to enable proper investigation and manipulation activities
(straw, hay, wood, sawdust, mushroom compost, peat)
 - Review the composition of the feed
 - Review environmental conditions (ventilation, handling etc)
- Separate animals with tail wounds

Council Directive 2001/88/EC



Prohibition of tail-docking routinely

[...] pigs must have permanent access to a sufficient quantity of material to enable proper investigation and manipulation activities, [...]



Little evidence of the type and quality of the enrichment material

- Chains, chewing sticks , balls..?
- Adverse effects on other aspects (contamination, heat stress....)

➤ **Inconsistently implemented in many Member States**

Initiatives for implementation



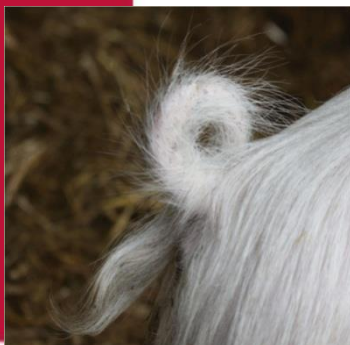
<https://euwelnetpigtraining.org/>

Training tool to standardise understanding of the legislative requirements, as well as problems and solutions related to tail biting.

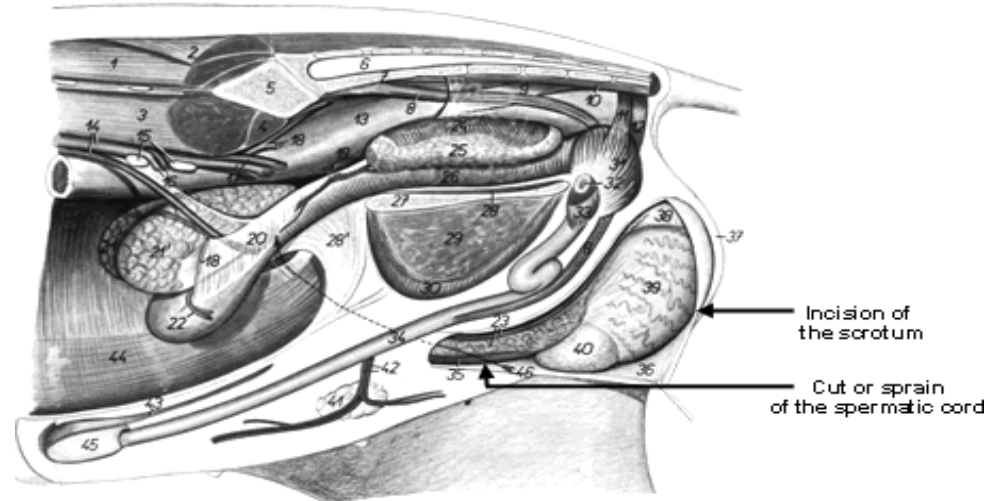


Tool-boxes for on farm use to assess :

- The functionality of the supplied manipulable material.
- The presence and strength of risk factors for tail biting.
 - Genetics
 - Nutrition
 - Climate
 - Health
 - Social competition
 - Lack of functional enrichment



Surgical castration

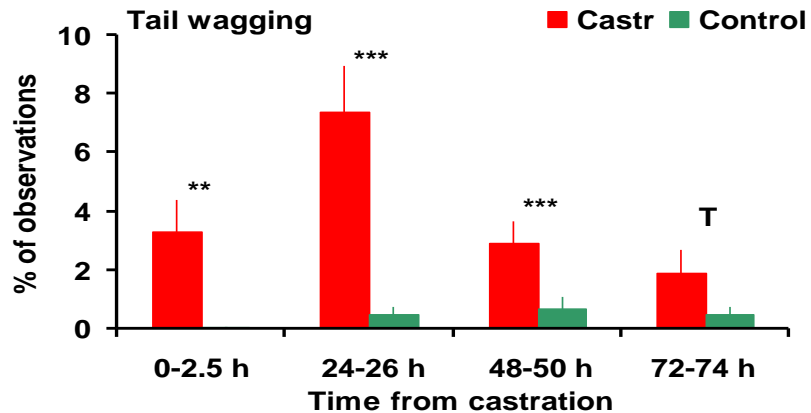


(Prunier et al 2005)



- Behavioural indicators
- Physiological indicators

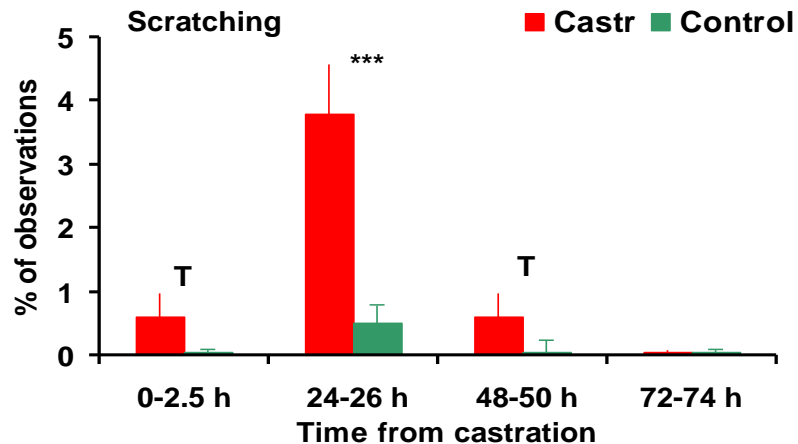
After castration



Post-surgical pain can last for 5 days.

Behavioural alteration:

- ↓ Activity
- ↑ Huddling up, tail wagging, scratching the rump, desynchronization
- Possible long-term effects on immunity & health



Hay et al. 2003

Production of entire males

European declaration: to stop the surgical castration of pigs from 1st of January 2018 by voluntary agreement

Advantages

Greater alimentary efficiency

Leaner carcasses

Higher content of unsaturated fatty acids

Lower excretion of nitrogen

Lower production costs

Disadvantages

Increase of aggressions and mountings

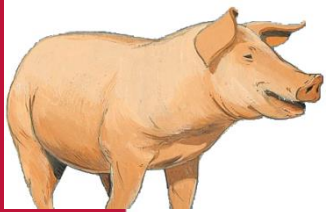
More damage in the carcass

Greater incidence of DFD

Softer fat

Greater incidence of boar taint

How to manage boar taint ?



Decrease the incidence of boar taint



How to control boar taint ?



Sort out tainted carcasses



How to assess boar taint ?

Solutions to reducing tail biting

8:45 Housing and management strategies to reduce tail biting

9:30 The effect of mixing after weaning on tail biting during rearing

9:45 Higher space allowance and straw rack as effective measures to reduce tail biting in fattening pigs

10:00 Frequent delivery of straw for slaughter pigs – effect on behaviour and welfare

10:45 Curly tails: the Dutch approach

11:00 Tail biting; what we do and do not know from a genetics perspective

Solutions to rearing entire pigs

11:30 Relationship between sperm production and boar taint risk of purebred or crossbred entire offspring

11:45 Slaughter related factors and season and their effect on boar taint in Belgian pigs

12:00 Using genetic markers to select Canadian Duroc sires for lower boar taint levels in commercial hogs

12:15 Effectiveness of genomic prediction of boar taint components in Pietrain sired breeding populations

Posters

- Fattening and carcass quality of entire male pigs as an alternative to surgical castration
- Inclusion of chicory fructanes in the diet reduces fat skatole levels
- Familiarity with boar taint and previous sample affect perception by human nose methodology



Thanks for your attention!

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