Are tail biting and tail necrosis really only a problem in the domestic pig?

A comparative study of young wild boars' and rearing piglets' health status with regard to the behavioural disorder tail biting in pigs

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Introduction: tail biting

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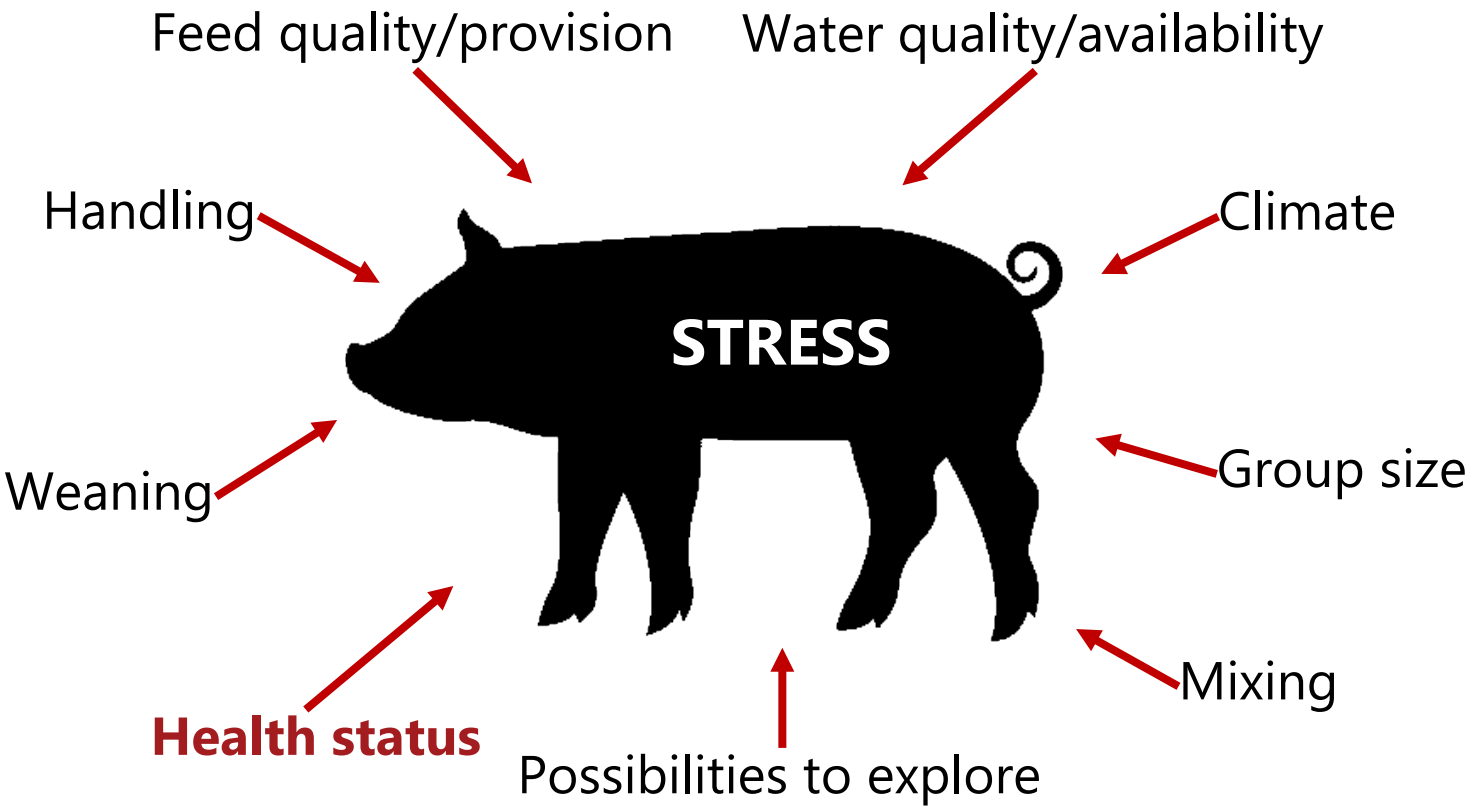
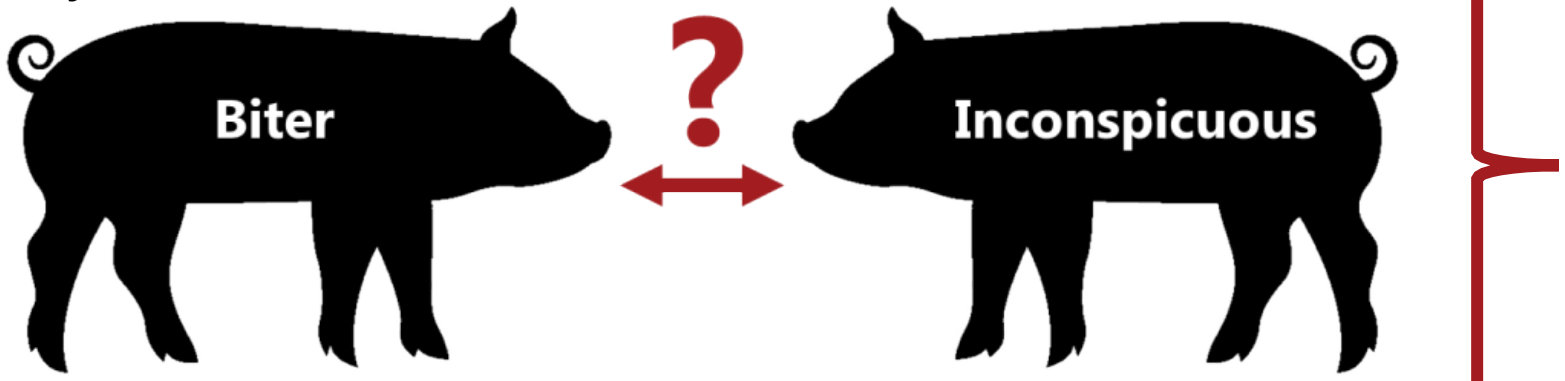


Introduction: tail biting

- Czycholl et al. 2023:



Which findings can be rated as normal?

Introduction: tail biting

- Czycholl et al. 2023:

Which findings can be rated as normal?

- Camerlink and Ursinus (2020):

Does tail biting/tail necrosis occur in wild boars?

Material and methods

- **2020-2022: call to hunters for donation of young wild boars**
  - 13 young wild boars vs. 17 rearing pigs
  - Standard pathological examination of all organ systems
  - Description of findings and group comparison via Chi^2-test

Material and methods

- **2020-2022: call to hunters for donation of young wild boars**
  - 13 young wild boars vs. 17 rearing pigs
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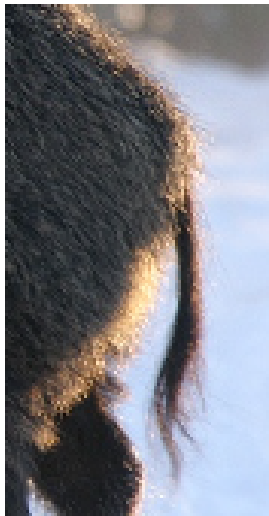
  - Description of findings and group comparison via Chi^2-test

- **2022: additional call for tails**
  - Pathological and pathohistological analysis
  - 53 additional tails (65 tails altogether)



Results: pathological examinations

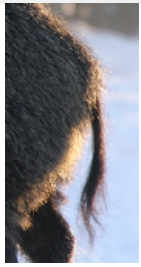
Variable	Wild boars (n=13)	Rearing pigs (n=17)	P values
Nutritional status: thin	3	0	0.03
Lung: nematodes	11	0	<0.0001
Mesenteric lymph nodes: inflammation	3	0	0.03
Liver: milkspots	5	0	0.005
Gut: nematodes	8	0	0.0002

Results: pathological examinations

Variable	Wild boars (n=13)	Rearing pigs (n=17)	P values
Colon associated lymphoid tissue: hyperplasia	0	4	0.05
Colon associated lymphoid tissue: inflammation	1	7	0.04
Gut: crypt abscesses	0	5	0.03
Upper airway infection	4	13	0.01
Tail: necrosis	0	5	0.04
Skin: scratches	0	12	<0.0001

Results: pathological examinations

Variable		Wild boars (n=13)	Rearing pigs (n=17)	P values
Hyperplasia	Spleen	3/13	1/17	0.17
	Bronchus associated lymphoid tissue	3/13	1/17	0.17
	Pulmonal lymph nodes	6/13	5/17	0.34
	Mesenteric lymph nodes	7/13	11/17	0.54
	Tonsils	7/13	9/17	0.96
Histio-cytosis	Lung	3/13	4/17	0.97
	Liver	5/13	3/17	0.20
	Diaphragm	4/13	1/17	0.07



Results: additional tail examinations

→ No **macroscopical** findings of tail biting/tail necrosis

→ **Pathohistology**: 75% with mild eosinophilic lymphohistiocytic infection

→ Two tails with sections of mites (**external parasites**)

→ **No signs of tail biting/tail necrosis**

Summary

→ **Parasitic infections** of diverse organ systems in wild boars

→ Some findings concerning the **gut** in rearing pigs

→ More **upper airway infections** in rearing pigs

→ **Skin scratches** due to rank fights in rearing pigs (not normal)

→ **Wild boars not in general healthier than rearing pigs**

→ **No signs of tail biting/tail necrosis in wild boars**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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