



Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians

Association Canadienne des Vétérinaires Porcins

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CASV-ACVP

Position Statement on Breeding Animal Housing

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Position statement

As swine veterinarians, our mission is to protect and improve the health and well-being of the animal. Given the variability inherent in different housing systems, the Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians supports the use of swine housing configurations that:

- Provide every pig with access to suitable food and water, in sufficient quantity and quality, based on a nutritional plan adapted to the needs of the animal;
- Provide pigs with a comfortable environment that includes:
 - A temperature that is suitably controlled at all stages of production
 - the ambient conditions should meet the needs of the animals at any time of the year and protect the animals from the extreme (cold and hot) and should minimize temperature related mortality.
 - Ventilation that is controlled at all stages of production, and which promote good air quality.
 - An appropriate amount of lighting at all stages of production.
 - Sufficient and appropriate bedding when required by the type of production.
 - An environment that allows for proper sanitation.
- Reduce exposure to hazards that result in disease, pain, or injury to the animals;
 - The flooring and equipment in the pig housing areas must be in a condition that does not pose an immediate risk of injury to the pigs.
 - Boars', gilts' and sows' stalls must be adequately sized so that the animals are able to stand, lie down, and adopt normal resting postures without undue interference.
- Allow the animals to express appropriate behaviours and minimize expression of inappropriate behaviours within the constraints of the housing type;
 - Provide suitable forms of enrichment.
- Minimize aggression and competition between the animals;
 - The presence of enrichment can reduce aggression when pigs are mixed in together and reduce handling stress.
- Provide a space to facilitate evaluation and care of individual animals that require attention
 - Housing system should offer an option to segregate animals when needed.
- The housing system must protect worker safety.

CASV-ACVP believes that the provision of high quality stockmanship is of primary importance in the provision of optimum animal welfare for the animals that we care for and is of greater importance than the type of housing that is used. Our role as veterinarians is to help teach and promote good stockmanship.