

Pigs (sows and growing pigs) Toolkit

Resource 1: Scoring scales

Lameness scoring

Source: [AssureWel, Pigs](#)

Observation: While in the pen assessing the individual measures, make all pigs rise if necessary to observe them up and walking (unless there is an obvious reason why a pig should not be made to rise).

Assess all animals in the pen.

Record the number of lame pigs

When identifying lame pigs, include those which are:

- Standing but not bearing full weight on the affected limb and/or appears to be standing on its toes; and/or
- Walking with a shortened stride, with minimum weight-bearing on the affected limb and a swagger of the hindquarters
- (may still be able to trot and gallop); and/or
- Severely lame with no weight-bearing on the affected limb. These may also need to be recorded under 'Pigs needing further care'.

Do not include pigs that are showing only stiffness or uneven gait.

Enrichment use scoring

Source: [AssureWel, Pigs](#)

Observation: Observe and record the oral behaviour of **standing and sitting** pigs in the pen (ignore lying pigs). Assess quickly to avoid double counting pigs already assessed.

Record the number of standing and sitting pigs:

1. Using enrichment: Investigating a suitable manipulable substrate or object provided for enrichment



2. Manipulating other = manipulating **other** pigs, pen equipment/floor/muck



Body marks scoring

Source: [AssureWel, Pigs](#)

Observation: Stand near the animal and visually assess one side only.

Scoring:

0 None / Minimal = No lesions or less than mild lesions as described below.



1 Mild = A linear lesion longer than 10cm
Or 3 or more 3cm lesions
Or a circular area larger than 1cm diameter but less than 5cm diameter

Definition of lesion includes grazed/broken skin, fresh (bleeding) wounds and healing lesions (scabs)

Scar tissue is not included



2 Severe = Circular Lesion or area of lesions \geq 5cm diameter
Or lesion extends into deeper layers of skin
Or the lesions cover a large percentage ($>25\%$) of the skin



Tail lesions scoring - individual

Source: [AssureWel, Pigs](#)

Observation: Look at the animal from behind. Investigate carefully if the tail is swollen or shorter than normal, as well as looking for scabs and lesions.

Scoring:

0 None-Minimal = The tail is unmarked or has circular lesions $<0.5\text{cm}$ diameter or linear lesions $<1\text{cm}$ in length



1 Mild = The tail has a circular lesion $\geq 0.5\text{cm}$ diameter or a 1cm linear scratch (including small scratches and scrapes, swelling, fresh blood or scabs visible on any part of the tail)



2 Severe = The tail is more severely bitten – at least a proportion of the tail missing, tail swollen or held oddly, scab covering whole tip



Leg swellings scoring – individual

Source: [AssureWel, Pigs](#)

Observation: Stand near the animal and visually assess the front and hind limbs, on one side only, for leg swellings

Scoring:

0 None = No evidence of swelling



1 Small = Swelling present up to 5cm in diameter (walnut-sized)



2 Large = Swelling present larger than 5cm diameter (walnut-sized) or any swelling that is eroded



Shoulder lesions scoring

Source: [AssureWel, Pigs](#)

Observation: Stand near the animal and visually assess one side only for shoulder lesions. Typical shoulder lesions are round rather than scrape marks.

Scoring:

0 None = No skin damage on the shoulder



1 Mild = Grazed or broken skin or swelling on the shoulder

2 Severe = Grazed or broken skin or swelling on the shoulder

Deep tissue injury – these may also be recorded under pigs needing further care



Vulva lesions scoring

Source: [AssureWel, Pigs](#)

Observation: Visually assess the vulva region

Scoring:

0 None = No damage to the vulva

1 Mild = Recent damage to the vulva including fresh or scabbed bite wounds but not including old scarring



2 Severe = Vulva lesion >3cm length or 1cm diameter

Deep tissue injury – these may also need to be recorded under 'Pigs needing further care'

Resource 2: Examples of animal abuse

Beat, strike or kick animals; ill-treat; exhaust; overload; torture; excessively frighten; apply pressure to any particularly sensitive part of the body in such a way as to cause unnecessary pain or suffering; suspend the animals themselves by mechanical means; lift or drag the animals by head, ears, horns, legs, tail or fleece, or handle in such a way as to cause unnecessary pain or suffering; use prods or other implements with pointed ends; tie by the horns, antlers, nose rings or by legs tied together. Unnecessary or cruel use of instruments which administer electric shocks.

Resource 3: Glossary

LENGTH 1ft = 0.305m	LENGTH 1m = 3.281ft	AREA 1m ² = 10.764ft ²
AREA 1ft ² = 0.0929m ²	WEIGHT 1lb = 0.454kg	WEIGHT 1kg = 2.205lb
LIGHT 20 Lux = 1.858ft candle	LIGHT 0.25ft candle = 2.691 Lux	LIGHT 1ft candle = 10.764 Lux

Resource 4: Guidance on treatment of the casualty pig

Source: [Pig Vet Society](#)

The following points are to be followed:

- Never attempt to kill a pig unless you have received suitable training.
- Never restrain a pig by holding its ear in one hand and using the captive-bolt/humane killer with the other.
- Never attempt to shoot an unrestrained pig, as it might move at the time of firing and receive an off-site shot which injures, but does not render it unconscious.

The following are possible methods of euthanasia:

1. External trauma: for piglets <4 weeks old or 5kg
2. Captive-bolt stunner
3. Shotgun
4. 0.22rim fire rifle
5. Free bullet humane killer

Resource 5: Medicine purchase and use records

Medicine purchase records to include: identity of medicine; quantity of medicine; date of purchase; name and address of supplier; batch number(s); and expiry date(s).

Medicine use records to include: the name of the vaccine, drug or other substance; lot and batch number; quantity of medicine administered; date of treatment; identification of the pig (or group of pigs) to which administered; age of treated pigs; number of pigs treated; date of administration; name of administrator; name of vet issuing prescription; reason for treatment; route of administration; length of treatment; withdrawal times if appropriate; and date of safe slaughter if appropriate.

Resource 6: Health and welfare plan

1. Infectious disease control and vaccinations used and planned
2. Parasite control
3. Management of non-infectious (management-induced) disease and injury such as tail biting, body lesions, face lesions (piglets) udder lesions (sows) shoulder lesions (sows) and vulva biting (sows)
4. Health and disease incidence record-keeping
5. Written plan to respond to sudden increases in morbidity or mortality
6. Monitoring of KPIs and KWIs, and actions planned to deal with increases in KWI or KPI levels
7. Corrective Action Plan within the health and welfare plan, to bring performance in line with good practice
8. Methods and records of euthanasia

Resource 7: Biosecurity plan

1. Emergency contact list
2. Named biosecurity person(s)
3. Employee training in biosecurity
4. Lines of separation (LOS) including fences and separate areas, how they are used to protect the animals and people
5. Biosecurity entry procedures
6. Biosecurity exit procedures
7. Biosecurity requirements for visitors (visitor book, PPE)
8. Biosecurity requirements for feed and other deliveries (recording entry, PPE, disinfection)
9. Cleaning and disinfection operating procedures
10. Disinfectant chemicals used (approvals, safe use, dilutions, replenishment)
11. Animal movements (new animals in, movement of animals out)
12. Dealing with sick and dead animals (safe, hygienic disposal)
13. Vermin, vector and wildlife control

Resource 8: Links to assurance standard organisations

[RSPCA \(UK\) Assured Standards](#)

[RSPCA \(Australia\) Standards](#)

[Global Gap Animal Welfare Standards](#)

[Red Tractor Standards](#)

[Beter Leven Controls](#)

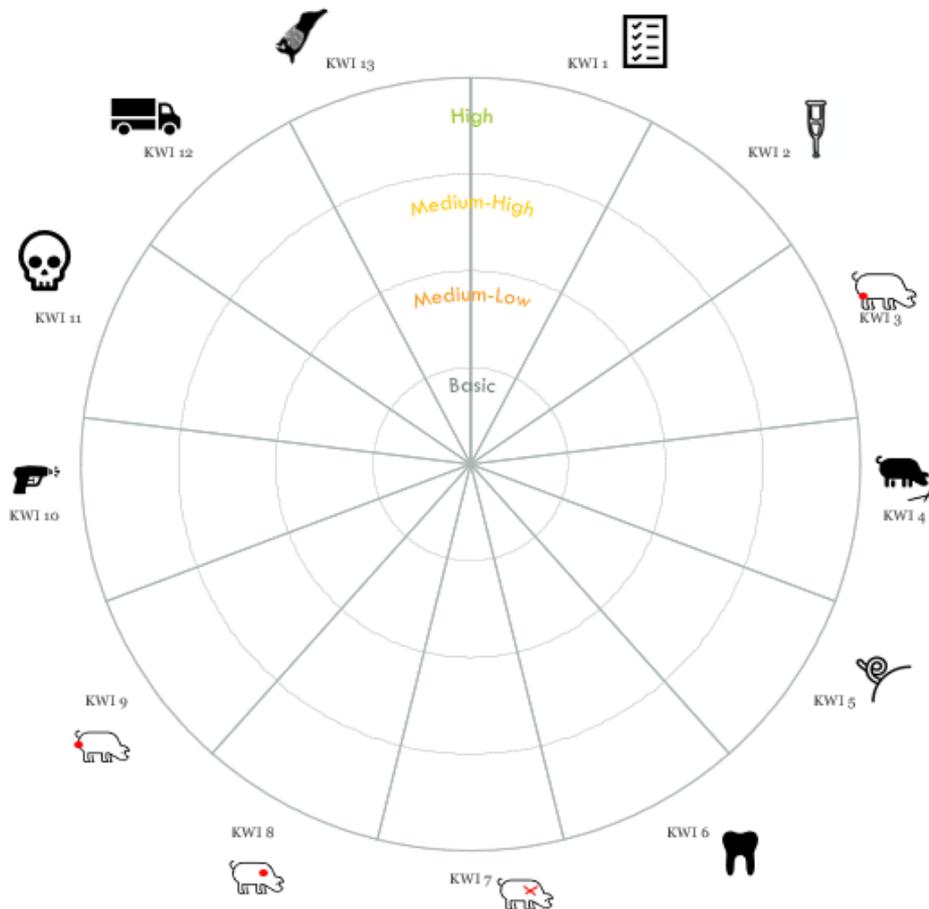
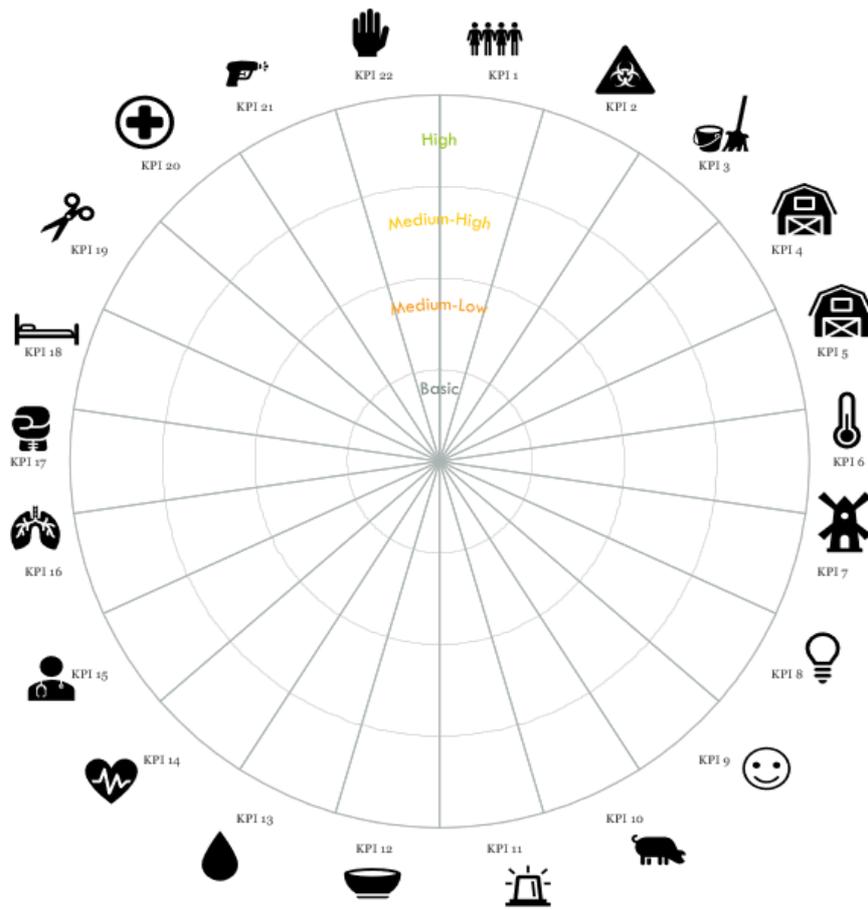
[German Animal Welfare Federation](#)

[Four Paws](#)

[AssureWel](#)

[Welfare Quality Network - Assessment Protocols](#)

Resource 9: Blank sector charts: sows, piglets, boars



Resource 10a Space allowances

Source: [Council Directive 2008/120/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs](#):

- Gilts: 1.64 m²; Sows: 2.25m²; Boars 6m²

Growing pigs: Live weight (kg)	m²
Not more than 10	0.15
More than 10 but not more than 20	0.20
More than 20 but not more than 30	0.30
More than 30 but not more than 50	0.40
More than 50 but not more than 85	0.55
More than 85 but not more than 110	0.65
More than 110	1.00

Resource 10b

Source: [RSPCA Welfare Standards for Pigs \(2016\)](#)

- Gilts: 2.5 m²; Sows: 3.55m²; Boars 7.5m²

Growing pigs: Live weight (kg)	m²
Not more than 10	0.15
More than 10 but not more than 20	0.225
More than 20 but not more than 30	0.30
More than 30 but not more than 50	0.47
More than 50 but not more than 85	0.715
More than 85 but not more than 110	0.8
More than 110	1.00

Resource 10c

Source: [Soil Association Standards Farming and Growing \(2021\)](#)

- Gilts/sows: 4.9m²; Boars 14m²

Growing pigs: Live weight (kg)	m²
Not more than 30	1.00
More than 30 but not more than 50	1.40
More than 50 but not more than 85	1.90
More than 85 but not more than 110	2.30

Resource 11: Published resources and further reading

AssureWel: [Pigs](#)

AssureWel: [The AssureWel Approach to Improving Farm Animal Welfare: The Development and Use of Welfare Outcome Assessments in Farm Assurance](#)

BBFAW Investor Briefing (August 2015): [How are Investors Using the Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare?](#)

BBFAW Investor Briefing (November 2017): [How Companies Are Using the Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare](#)

BBFAW: [The Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare Report 2019](#)

British Veterinary Association: [Farm Assurance Schemes Infographic](#)

[Compassion in World Farming, Strategic Plan 2013–2017, For Kinder, Fairer Farming Worldwide](#)

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE (EC) 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE (EC) 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives EEC 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) 1255/97

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2008/120/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs

[COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes](#)

CSIRO Publishing (2001): [Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Livestock at Slaughtering Establishments](#)

DEFRA (2003): [Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock: Pigs](#)

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development: [Sub-sectoral Environmental and Social Guideline: Poultry Farming](#)

FAO: [Water Quality for Livestock and Poultry](#)

[FAWC advice on animal sentience \(10 June 2019\)](#)

[FAWC: Evidence and the welfare of farmed animals - part 2: evidence based decision making \(19 July 2018\)](#)

[Farm Animal Welfare Committee \(FAWC\) opinion on free farrowing systems \(26 November 2015\)](#)

[FAWC advice on space and headroom allowances for transport of farm animals \(17 September 2013\)](#)

[FAWC report on farm animal welfare: health and disease \(29 November 2012\)](#)

[FAWC opinion on contingency planning for farm animal welfare in disasters and emergencies \(15 March 2012\)](#)

[FAWC advice on sustainable intensification of livestock agriculture \(3 February 2012\)](#)

[FAWC report on education about farm animal welfare \(15 December 2011\)](#)

[FAWC report on economics and farm animal welfare \(7 December 2011\)](#)

[FAWC opinion on the welfare of animals killed on-farm \(29 March 2018\)](#)

[FAWC opinion on CCTV in slaughterhouses \(3 February 2015\)](#)

Gov UK: [The Welfare of Farmed Animals \(England\) Regulations 2007](#)

Gov UK: [Animal Welfare Act 2006](#)

IFC (2014): [Good Practice Note: Improving Animal Welfare in Livestock Operations \(2014\)](#)

Edgar, J.L., Mullan, S.M., Pritchard, J.C., McFarlane, U.J.C. and Main, D.C.J., (2013): [Towards a 'Good Life' for Farm Animals: Development of a Resource Tier Framework to Achieve Positive Welfare for Laying Hens \(Animals 2013, 584-605\)](#)

OIE: [Terrestrial Animal Health Code \(2019\)](#)

OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2019): [Chapter 7.5, Slaughter of Animals](#)

OIE: [The OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials \(2016\)](#)

[Red Tractor Pigs Standards \(2017\)](#)

RSPCA (2017): [Welfare standards for pigs](#)

Share Action: [What we do](#)

Soil Association (2020): [Farming and Growing Standards](#)

[Statista: Number of pigs worldwide in 2020, by leading country \(in million head\)](#)

Vet Sustain (2019): [The Veterinary Sustainability Goals](#)

Welfare Quality Network: [Assessment Protocols](#)

WHO: [Water Safety and Drinking Water Quality Guidelines](#)

World Bank Group: [General Environmental, Health and Safety \(EHS\) Guidelines, \(April 2007\)](#)

[World Vet Antimicrobial Stewardship: McDonald's Corporation – Vision for Antimicrobial Stewardship in Food Animals \(March 2015\)](#)