



# TAIL BITES

## FIT FOR TRANSPORT?

### FINISHERS, 100 KG



## What to do before loading the pig?

### 1. Focus on the pig as a whole



#### CHECK

- a) If the pig's overall well-being appears to be affected
- b) If the pig's body condition is normal
- c) If the pig is walking without difficulty

### 2. Look at the pig's tail



#### CHECK

- a) Is the pig hiding its tail?
- b) Do you see traces of fresh blood on the tail?
- c) What is the size of the wound?
- d) Is the tail red and/or swollen?
- e) Are there signs of dead tissue on the tail (black spots on the tail)?

### 3. Palpate the pig's tail



#### CHECK

- a) Does the tail feel hot?
- b) Is the tail sore when you touch it?
- c) Is the tail swollen?

## Finishers are fit for transport when the following conditions are met:

- The pig's overall well-being is unaffected, movement is not impeded and body condition is normal
- The bite is healed, or the tail has small superficial wounds with a dry crust
- No signs of infection (the tail does not feel hot, is not red and swollen or appears sore)

**WHY?**

Pigs that meet these conditions are fit to be transported with other pigs.

### EXAMPLES OF FINISHERS FIT FOR TRANSPORT



1. The pig's overall well-being is unaffected and body condition and movement are normal.
2. The tail bite is healed. No visible reddening or swelling.
3. The tail does not feel hot, sore or swollen.



1. The pig's overall well-being is unaffected and body condition and movement are normal.
2. A small superficial wound can be seen on the tail, no visible swelling.
3. The tail does not feel hot, sore or swollen.



1. The pig's overall well-being is unaffected and body condition and movement are normal.
2. The tail bite is healed and has a dry crust. No visible reddening or swelling.
3. The tail does not feel hot, sore or swollen.

## Finishers are fit for transport under certain conditions when the following conditions are met:

- The pig's overall well-being is unaffected, movement is not impeded and body condition is normal
- The tail bite is not healed, and ulcerations are visible. The wound is not severe
- No signs of infection (the tail does not feel hot, is not red and swollen)

### HOW?

During transport the pigs must be given extra space to allow for distance to other pigs. They must be given extra bedding to make the floor non-slippery and comfortable to lie on during transport.

### EXAMPLES OF FINISHERS FIT FOR TRANSPORT UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS



1. The pig's overall well-being is unaffected and body condition and movement are normal.
2. The tail bite is not healed, and ulcerations are visible. No visible reddening or swelling.
3. The tail does not feel hot, sore or swollen.



1. The pig's overall well-being is unaffected and body condition and movement are normal.
2. The tail bite is not healed, and ulcerations are visible. No reddening or swelling away from the wound.
3. The tail does not feel hot, sore or swollen.



1. The pig's overall well-being is unaffected and body condition and movement are normal.
2. The tail bite is older with newly formed crust on the tip of the tail after dead, black tissue has come off. No visible reddening or swelling.
3. The tail does not feel hot, sore or swollen.

## Finishers are UNFIT for transport if you see one of the following characteristics:

- The pig's overall well-being is affected, the pig is thin or movement is impeded
- The wound is severe and is not healed, eg.
  - a large black wound near the base of the tail
  - dead black tissue
- Signs of infection (the tail is hot, sore, red and/or swollen)

### WHY?

The pig will feel severe pain around the tail, and its condition may deteriorate during transport. When the tail is infected, bacteria may spread leading to blood poisoning and abscesses. In such cases, the pig may become very ill and/or lame, and the carcass will be rejected at the slaughterhouse.

### EXAMPLES OF FINISHERS UNFIT FOR TRANSPORT



1. The pig is thin and movement is impeded.
2. A large wound around the base of the tail is visible and the entire tail is missing.
3. The tail is sore.

*The pig must be euthanized.*



1. The pig's overall well-being is unaffected and body condition and movement are normal.
2. A wound, reddening and swelling are visible.
3. The tail feels hot, sore and swollen.

*The pig must be moved to a hospital pen and treated appropriately until the infection has ceased.*



1. The pig's overall well-being is unaffected and body condition and movement are normal.
2. An old tail bite is visible revealing dead and black tissue. Visible reddening and swelling around the tail.
3. The tail feels hot, sore and swollen.

*The pig must be moved to a hospital pen and treated appropriately until the infection has ceased. Once the dead tissue has come off and a new crust is formed, the pig will be fit for transport under certain conditions.*