

CANADIAN STANDARDS FOR THE WELFARE OF PIGS

| | 1993 Code of Practice | 2014 Code of Practice | SPCA Certified standard (2002) |
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| H O U S I N G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fully slatted or bare concrete floors allowed; bedding not required ▪ Sow stalls/crates permitted for duration of reproductive life ▪ Use of tethers permitted, although not recommended | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A ban on construction of new barns that do not provide group housing (effective July 1st). ▪ A ban on conventional stall systems that continuously restrict sow freedom of movement (effective July 1st, 2024). ▪ A ban on tethering of pigs (effective immediately). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shade/shelter/predator protection required on pasture ▪ Indoor air quality, lighting, and temperature monitored ▪ Fully slatted or bare concrete flooring prohibited ▪ Tie stalls (tethering) and sow gestation crates prohibited ▪ Confinement of sows in the farrowing facility must not exceed 28 days post-birth ▪ Space requirements allow freedom of movement |
| N U T R I T I O N | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feed all pigs daily; select a diet to meet the basic nutritional needs of pigs; feed quality testing not required ▪ Farmers allowed to feed garbage to pigs (permit required unless garbage produced on farm from a non-commercial source and is fed to pigs on the same premises). ▪ Antibiotics and hormone additives are permitted in feed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pigs must be provided with daily access to feed that maintains their health and meets their physiological requirements. ▪ Pigs must be fed a diet which is appropriate to their species, age, and production phase. ▪ Feed must be provided in such a way so as to prevent competition resulting in injury or excessive weight variation within the group. ▪ Corrective action must be taken if there is a significant reduction of feed intake, and for animals at a BCS of less than 2 or more than 4. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feed must be nutritionally complete; specific to age and stage of production ▪ Feed nutrient quality monitored; water tested annually ▪ Mineral supplement feeding documented ▪ Antibiotic, growth promotants, hormone additives to feed prohibited unless prescribed by vet to treat a diagnosed disease ▪ Feed must be free of animal-derived proteins |
| H E A L T H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Check all pigs twice daily for signs of injury and disease ▪ Recommend weaning occurs after 3 weeks of age; no specific age requirement ▪ Iron supplements must be administered to piglets housed indoors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A working relationship with a practicing veterinarian must be established ▪ Pigs that are sick or injured must be monitored at a frequency appropriate to their condition, and at least daily ▪ Surgical procedures (e.g., hernia repair, cryptorchidectomy) other than elective husbandry procedures must be performed in consultation with a veterinarian and using appropriate anesthesia and analgesia in consultation with a veterinarian. ▪ Major surgical procedures (e.g., caesarian section, cryptorchidectomy) must only be performed by a licensed veterinarian | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Herd must be monitored at minimum 2 times per day ▪ Piglets must not be weaned before 3 weeks of age ▪ Specific attention given to walking ability, foot and leg health, and death losses, with set limits requiring a vet visit ▪ Require herd health plans, biosecurity plans, and on-farm record keeping |

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| P A I N M G M T | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teeth trimming should occur within the first 24 hours of life ▪ Castration should occur before 2 weeks of age ▪ Tail docking is permitted ▪ Ear notching permitted | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The mandatory use of anesthetic and analgesic when castrating piglets over 10 days of age. ▪ The mandatory use of analgesics when castrating or tail-docking piglets at any age (effective July 1st, 2016). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teeth trimming must be performed within the first 24 hours of life ▪ Castration must occur before 14 days of age ▪ Tail docking is prohibited ▪ Ear notching prohibited ▪ Humane methods of nuisance animal (pest)/predator control required |
| H A N D L I N G & T R A N S P O R T | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “When a pig is not salvageable... or cannot be moved without causing it unnecessary suffering, it should not be loaded for transport” ▪ Transporting sick, fatigued, or injured pigs is permitted ▪ “Do not feed market hogs immediately before transporting unless the trip will exceed 24 hours” ▪ Pigs must not be confined on a truck for more than 36 hours without feed, water or rest ▪ Use of electric prods permitted | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pigs must be loaded, unloaded, handled, and transported by competent persons. ▪ Pigs that are incompatible must not be mixed. ▪ Unfit animals must not be loaded (specific conditions listed) ▪ Compromised animals that are able to be transported under special provisions must be shipped directly to local slaughter, not through auction markets. ▪ Animals that cannot bear weight on all four legs must not be loaded; these animals will likely become non-ambulatory during transport. ▪ Fitness for transport in the context of each trip, including relevant factors such as the anticipated total trip duration from farm to final destination, and prevailing weather conditions, must be evaluated. ▪ Pigs showing signs of distress prior to loading must not be loaded. ▪ Electric prods must only be used as a last resort and never as the primary driving device. When necessary, use of prods must be restricted to the back and hind quarters on lead pigs, but never used in the anal and genital areas, and only when there is a clear path for them to move forward. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pig health assessed pre-transport; Sick/injured animals cannot be transported ▪ Pigs must have access to water up to loading for transport ▪ Food can be withdrawn prior to transport for a maximum of 10 hours if transport time does not exceed 8 hours to prevent nausea during the journey ▪ Total transport time must not exceed 24 hours unless pigs are given a 5-hour rest period with access to feed and water ▪ Electric prods only permitted in emergency situations |

All requirements of the Canadian Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs are also requirements of the SPCA Certified program. This document does not reflect the full set of SPCA Certified Standards for the Raising and Handling of Pigs.