How should we raise pigs in the future from a porcine welfare standpoint?

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CPH Pig Seminar; January 28th, 2025



UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN



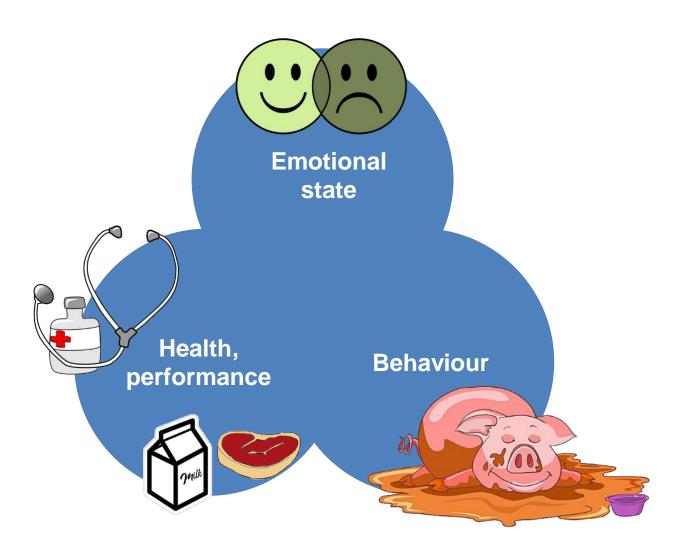
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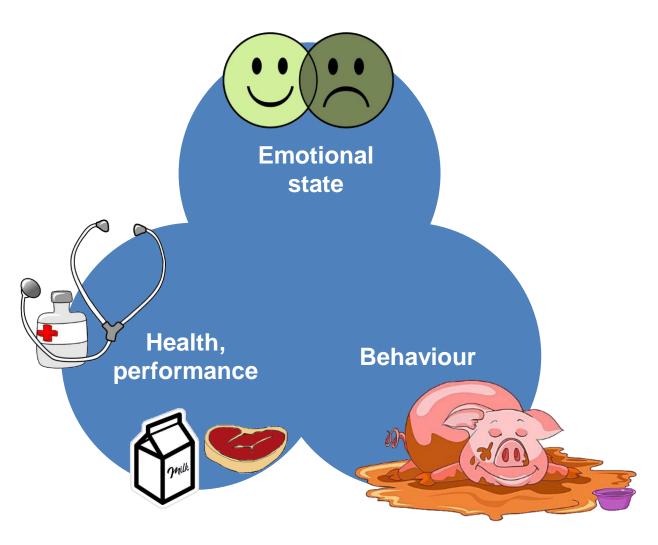


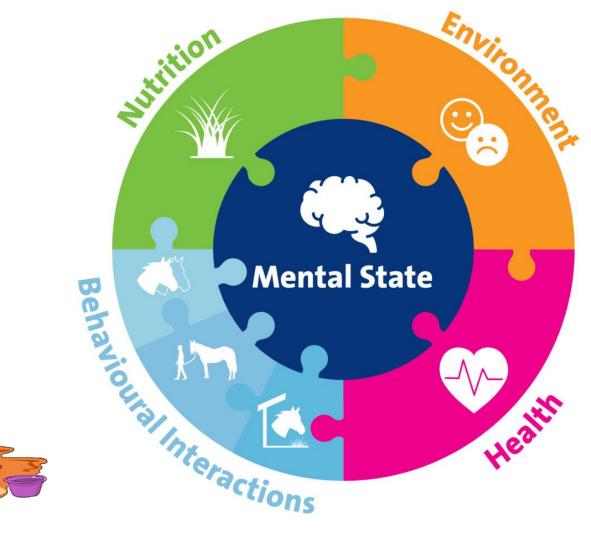
What is animal welfare

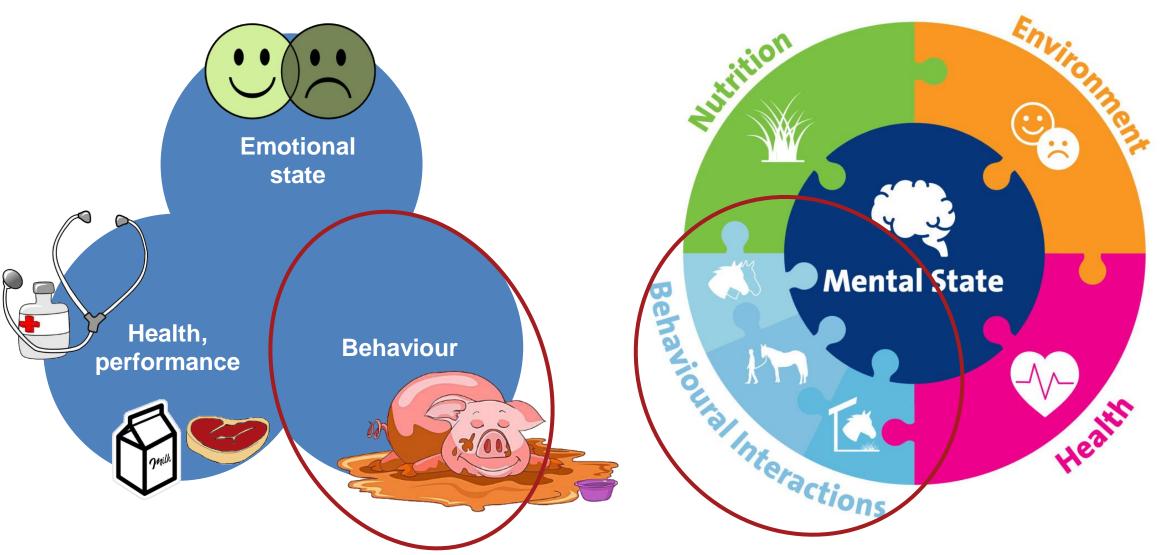
animal-centered no cruelty stimulation mental health good life conditions behaviour a life worth living activities striving health natural behaviour. natural environment behaviour physiology nutrition natural diet

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Why behaviour matters

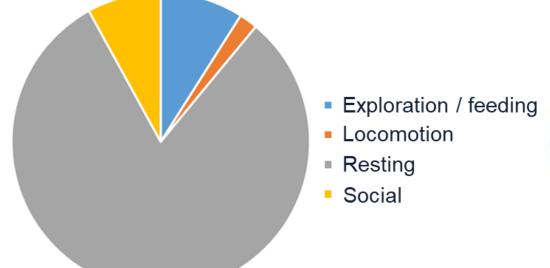


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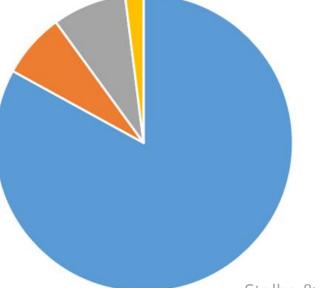
Conventional husbandry





Seminatural environment



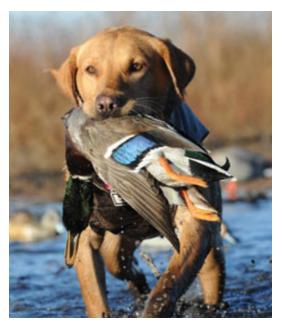


Do we need to move all pigs outdoors





Can a pig strive in conventional husbandry





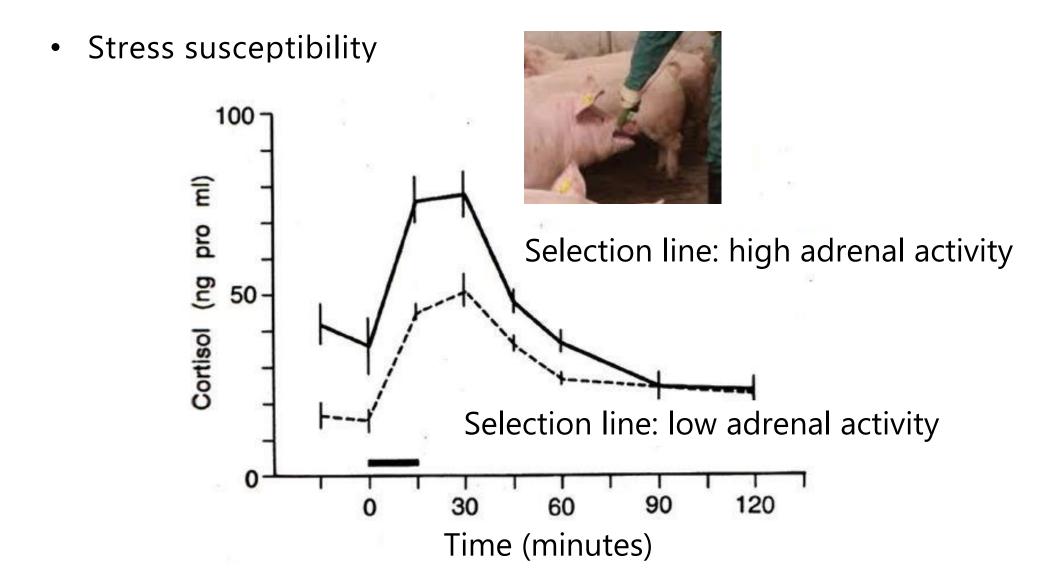




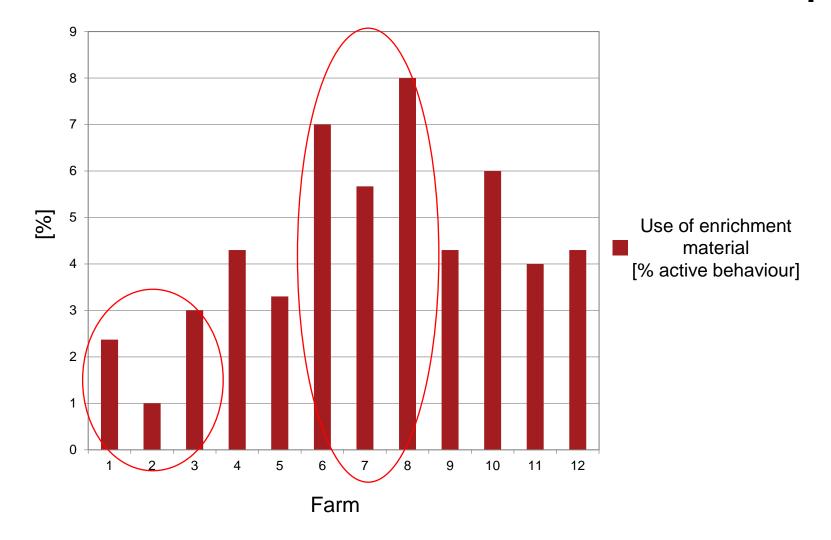




Breeding for adaptability



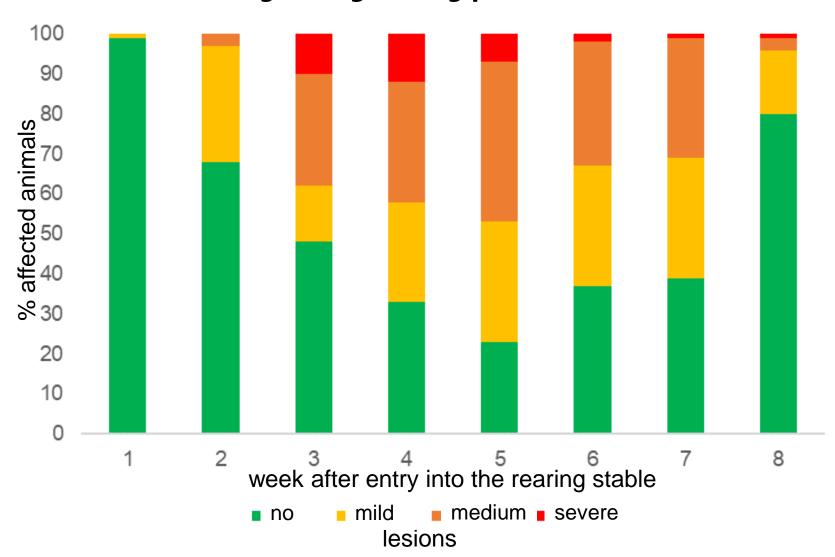
Use of enrichment material in 12 pig farms



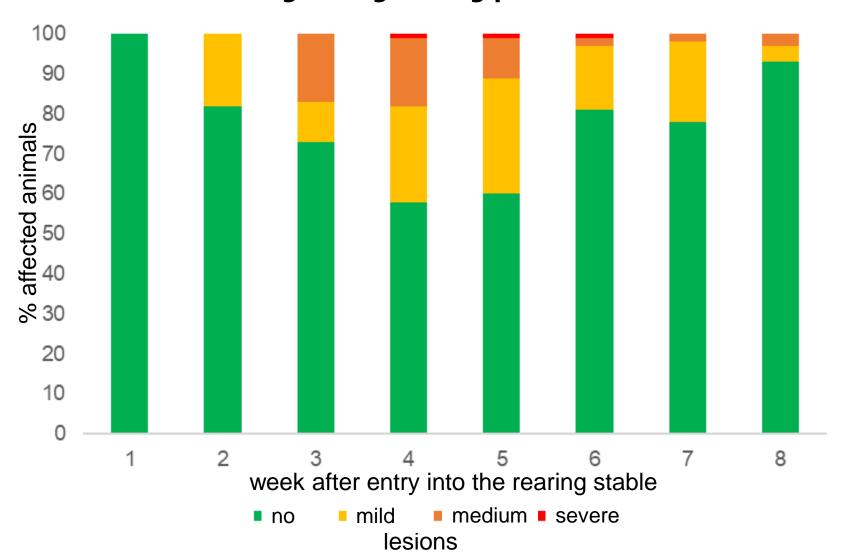
Straw automat	45%
Mic Toy	27%
Wood	23%
Others	5%



Tail biting during rearing period: without straw



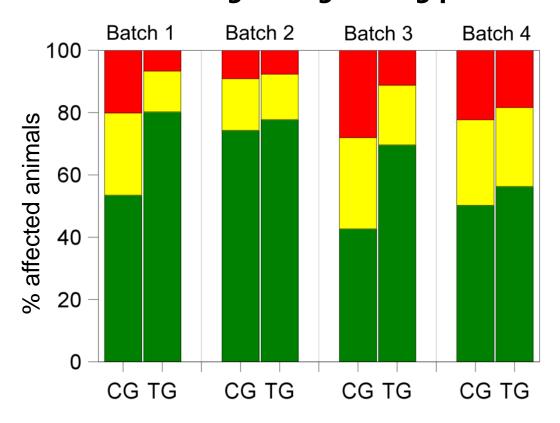
Tail biting during rearing period: with straw



Effects of an intensified human-animal interaction

Tail biting during rearing period





Take home message

There are different ways to raise pigs in the future from an animal welfare standpoint

Consider all aspects of animal welfare

Consider behavioural needs of the pigs

Small changes can make a big

Think from a pig perspective

difference

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Never stop improving

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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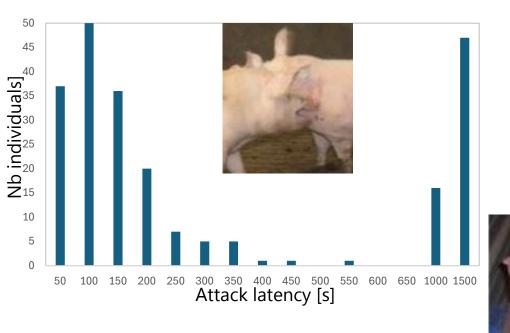
Think from a pig perspective

Small changes can make a big difference

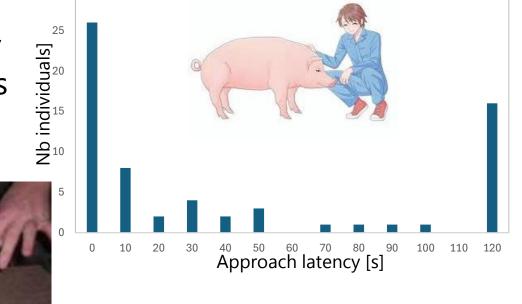
Never stop improving

Questions? ic@sund.ku.dk

Genetic influences on behaviour: coping styles



Separation into coping styles by behavioural tests



	Proactive coper	Reactive coper
Attack latency	Short	Long
Exploration	Fast	Slow
Distractability	Low	High
Hormone	Adrenaline	Corticosterone
Blood pressure	High	Low











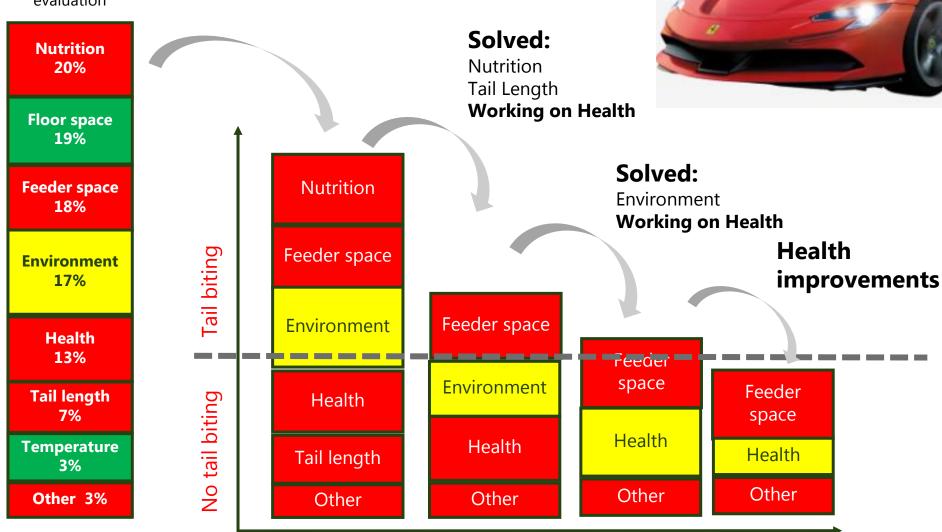


Optimal management



Optimal management

Problem evaluation









Meat inspection data and animal welfare







Better animal welfare is at the heart

At Danish Crown, we give high priority to animal welfare and ensure good animal welfare from farm to abattoir. $[\cdots]$



Study design: farms







Farm A

Organic

50 sows

Slaughterhouse A

Farm B

Conventional

1400 sows

Slaughterhouse B

Farm C

Conventional

60 sows

Slaughterhouse B

Definition of EU COST Action

- Shift in focus, from negative to positive
- Positive animal welfare focusses on providing animals with experiences that elicit positive emotions
- For example, providing animals with opportunities for play, positive social interactions, and agency

Positive Animal Welfare

This site provides a resource for understanding positive animal welfare (PAW), how it can be assessed and improved and links to a selection of PAW research projects.



