

ON FARM EUTHANASIA DECISION TOOL FOR PIGLETS

1.



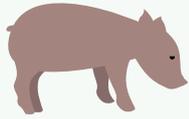
Can the piglet on its own and sufficiently:
 - eat / drink
 - defecate / urinate
 Is the piglet not crippled?
 Does the piglet show normal behaviour?

YES

NO

Routine checks

2.



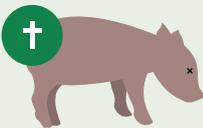
Is the piglet sick or does it have:
 - a non-life-threatening injury
 - a non-life-threatening congenital abnormality

YES

NO

Treatment according to farm health plan

3.



Does the piglet have a congenital abnormality or trauma making the piglet:

not viable?



never to be transported?



will suffer from irremediable pain?

YES

NO

Sufficient recovery within 3 days

YES

NO

Euthanasia

NO

YES

Sufficient development within 3 days?

Probability of survival:

- A combination / seriousness of factors can indicate a need for euthanasia.
- This is farm-specific, consult your veterinarian.
- A piglet <600g has few chances and needs very intensive care.

Supportive measures and sufficient observations

BAD

NOT BAD

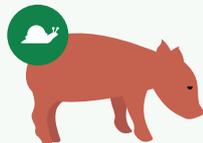
4.



Is the piglet too light? (<1000g)



Is the piglet cold?



Is the piglet slow?



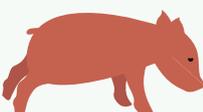
Does the piglet have a "dolphin-like" head shape?



Does the piglet have an empty stomach?



Does the piglet have a blue/yellow white skin color?



Does the piglet have a splay leg?

When in doubt always consult your vet



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- 1.** HEFT is committed to improving the existing methods for the euthanasia of animals. We developed a new technology for stunning and killing animals based on nitrogen gas especially for euthanizing diseased animals at farms. In an atmosphere of over 98% of nitrogen gas animals lose consciousness within 20-30 seconds. Nitrogen is a non-irritating gas. Using high-expansion foam to contain the nitrogen gas, this technology has minimal risks for animal welfare and for public health.
- 2.** Responsible euthanasia also requires a well-founded decision. Each keeper of animals is responsible for the situation on his own farm regarding the protection of animals at the time of killing (EC Regulation 1099/2009).
- 3.** To support pig farmers in making a well-founded decision, HEFT developed this decision aid for euthanasia of piglets. This tool offers a general decision scheme substantiated by evidence from veterinary science and practice. Our aim is to attain an optimum of animal welfare by improved husbandry, medical treatment and intensive care. Or to have a responsible form of euthanasia performed if treatment is of no avail.
- 4.** HEFT developed the decision tool together with the Royal Society of Veterinary Medicine of the Netherlands and the University of Utrecht /Center for Sustainable Animal Stewardship (CenSAS) (Universities of Utrecht Wageningen), supported by the national organization of pig farmers. This decision aid is limited to piglets until the time of weaning and has been validated in practice by pig farmers and vets.
- 5.** In addition to a well-founded decision, the conditions listed below apply, according to EC Regulation 1099/2009:
 - Any person involved in the killing of animals should take the necessary measures to avoid pain and minimise the distress and suffering of animals.
 - They must take into account the best practices in the field and the methods permitted under this Regulation.
 - Well trained and skilled personnel improve the conditions under which animals are treated. Competence with regards to animal welfare implies knowledge of the basic behavioural patterns and the needs of the species concerned as well as signs of consciousness and sensibility. It also includes technical expertise with regard to the stunning equipment used.