



Animal Behavior & Restraint

Swine




BEHAVIOR

Just In Time Training 2012

Animal Behavior and Restraint: Swine

Swine Characteristics

- Gregarious, social animals
- Social order
- Panoramic vision
- Follow each other
- Maintain visual and body contact
- Inquisitive nature
- Very susceptible to hot temperatures or conditions




Just In Time Training 2012

Animal Behavior and Restraint: Swine

Normal Swine Behavior

- Grunt/bark when agitated
- Squeal loudly when restrained or frightened
 - Use hearing protection
- Strong natural urge to escape
 - Gaps between pens, alleys, ramps, side gates, chutes
 - Often injure themselves



Just In Time Training 2012

Animal Behavior and Restraint: Swine

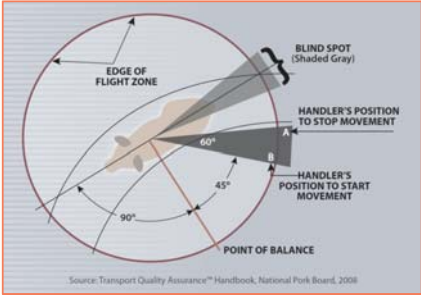
HANDLING

- Piglets
- Finisher pigs
- Boars
- Sows

Just In Time Training 2012

Animal Behavior and Restraint: Swine

Handling




Source: Transport Quality Assurance™ Handbook, National Pork Board, 2008

Just In Time Training 2012

Animal Behavior and Restraint: Swine

Handling


- Non-slip flooring critical
- Primary movement aids
 - Flags, plastic paddles, panels
 - Frequent electric prod use is detrimental
- Move pigs in small groups of 5 or 6 to prevent turning around, bunching, piling up
- Distractions: Shadows, reflections, moving objects, air drafts, people, noises



Just In Time Training 2012 Animal Behavior and Restraint: Swine

Handling: Piglets


- Pick up and carry
 - Pick up by hind leg
 - Avoid swinging
 - Support chest if moving a distance
 - **Never** pick up by the ear
- Herding
 - Noise shakers
 - Move with sorting board using flight zone principles



Just In Time Training 2012 Animal Behavior and Restraint: Swine

Handling: Grower/Finisher Pigs

- Work in pairs
- Move small groups
- Utilize flight zone
 - Use sorting board to turn/stop pigs
- Watch for fatigue
 - Open mouthed breathing
 - Inability to move
 - Splotchy skin



Just In Time Training 2012 Animal Behavior and Restraint: Swine

Handling: Grower/Finisher Pigs

- Ensure path is clear, secure, obvious
- Move from dark to light areas with no shadows
- Move in calm, unhurried manner
 - Allow pigs to walk at their own pace
- **Do not** kick pigs
- **Do not** use sticks/prods to hit pigs

Just In Time Training 2012 Animal Behavior and Restraint: Swine

Handling: Boars

- Minimize aggression
- Move and load individually
- Separate pens to prevent injuries
- Allow extra time to become comfortable with new environment



Just In Time Training 2012 Animal Behavior and Restraint: Swine

Handling: Sows

- Older, large in size
 - Require extra time for movement, becoming comfortable with environment
- Move and load 2 or 3 at a time
- Increased aggression at points in reproductive cycle
 - Use caution when handling aggressive sows

Just In Time Training 2012 Animal Behavior and Restraint: Swine


RESTRAINT

- Piglets
- Older pigs

Just In Time Training 2012 Animal Behavior and Restraint: Swine

Restraint: Piglets

- Lift piglet by back leg
 - Never by ear, front leg, tail
- Place hand under piglet's chest
- Hold pig firmly
- Alternative: Place piglet over forearm with piglet's chest in palm, legs hanging on either side of arm



Just In Time Training 2012 Animal Behavior and Restraint: Swine


Restraint: Pigs

- Ensure work area is of proper size
- Apply pressure to hindquarters/flank to keep pig(s) still
- Perform procedure as quickly as possible, return to pen promptly

Just In Time Training 2012 Animal Behavior and Restraint: Swine

Restraint: Pigs (cont'd)

- Use of snare may be necessary
 - Only used when absolutely necessary
 - Properly trained, competent handler
- Place loop in mouth, over top jaw/snout
- Hold snare handle vertically
- Move loop back before tightening
 - Second person performs task




Just In Time Training 2012 Animal Behavior and Restraint: Swine

Restraint: Pigs (cont'd)

- Release pig as soon as possible
 - Loosen, release snare
- **Do not** restrain for prolonged periods of time
- **Do not** move pig with snare
- **Do not** tie pig up with snare


Just In Time Training 2012 Animal Behavior and Restraint: Swine



Acknowledgments

Development of this presentation was by the Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State University through funding from the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture

Author: Shaine DeVoe, BS; Glenda Dvorak, DVM, MPH, DACVPM
Reviewer: Alex Ramirez, DVM, MPH, PhD, DACVPM




IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY