



COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION ON THE WELFARE OF PIGS

Marco Valletta
Member of Cabinet Andriukaitis

Strasbourg
10 March 2016

Adopted on 8 March 2016

- **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION** on the application of Council Directive 2008/120/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs as regards measures to reduce the need for tail-docking
- **COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT** on best practices with a view to the prevention of routine tail-docking and the provision of enrichment materials to pigs

Commission Recommendation

- a legal instrument that encourages in a particular way without being binding
- provides key information
 - **to prevent tail-biting**
 - **to provide manipulable material**



Preventing tail-biting

- Following parameters to be checked:
 - Enrichment materials provided
 - Cleanliness
 - Thermal comfort and air quality
 - Health status
 - Competition for food and space
 - Diet



Enrichment materials

- Need to be safe and
 - Edible (eat and smell)
 - Chewable (for biting)
 - Investigable
 - Manipulable (change location, appearance or structure)



Enrichment materials (2)

- Should be provided in such a way that they are of:
 - Sustainable interest
 - Accessible for the pigs to bite
 - In sufficient quantity
 - Clean and hygienic



Enrichment material categories

- **Optimal** materials = *May be used alone*
- **Suboptimal** materials = *Should be used in combination with other materials*
- Materials of **marginal** interest = *Not considered fulfilling*

Materials	Provided as	Category	May be complemented by...
Straw, hay, silage, miscanthus, root vegetables	Bedding	<i>Optimal</i>	Can be used alone
Soil	Bedding	Suboptimal	Edible and chewable materials
Wood shaving	Bedding	Suboptimal	Edible and manipulable materials
Sawdust	Bedding	Suboptimal	Edible, chewable materials
Mushroom compost, peat	Bedding	Suboptimal	Edible materials
Sand and stones	Bedding	Suboptimal	Edible and chewable materials
Shredded paper	Partial bedding	Suboptimal	Edible materials
Pellet dispenser	Dispenser	Suboptimal	Depending on the amount of pellets provided

Assessment methods

- Animal based indicators:
 - Presence of bitten tails
 - Abnormal behaviours:
 - Biting other pigs or inventory
 - Fighting to use enrichment material
- Non-animal based indicators:
 - Quantity of enrichment material
 - Cleanliness

