

## AEC STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

<b>SOP No:</b>	24
<b>SOP</b>	Pigs
<b>Scientific Name:</b>	<i>Sus scrota domestica</i>
<b>Category:</b>	2, 3, 4, 5
<b>Approval Level:</b>	Category 2: School Principal may delegate Category 3: School Principal may <b>NOT</b> delegate Category 4: Animal Ethics Committee Category 5: Animal Ethics Committee
<b>Authority:</b>	<b>Government Schools</b> – Department for Education and Childhood Development Animal Ethics Committee <b>Independent and Catholic Schools</b> - Non Government Schools Animal Ethics Committee
<b>Authority Approval Date:</b>	1 August 2010
<b>Last update</b>	22 January 2019
<b>Disclaimer:</b>	<i>This document may be updated at any time. You should check the web site regularly to ensure that you are meeting the most recent recommendations. If you note any concerns with the information provided (inadequate, incorrect) please contact the relevant AEC</i>
<b>Licensing Requirement:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Compliance Requirement:</b>	The keeping of this species requires approval from the School Principal or the AEC. It is recommended that this Standard Operating Procedure be followed as a minimum in the provision of appropriate care and housing for this species.

**General Information:** Varietal range difference. The most common breeds are:

- Large White
- Landrace
- Hampshire
- Duroc
- Berkshire
- Large Black
- Wessex Saddleback.

**Movement:** There are restrictions on the movement of pigs. To ensure you comply with the appropriate legislation, contact Primary Industries and Resources SA.

**Physical Attributes:**

- **Size:** medium-sized farm animal; small varieties such as Australian Companion Pigs, are half the size of normal pigs.
- **Weight:** adult weight 100 kg – 300 kg
- **Age at adult size:** 12-24 months
- **Life span:** approximately 15 years
- **Sexually mature:** gilts may be mated from 9 months if well developed
- **Weight at birth:** 1 kg – 2 kg
- **Gestation period:** 112-115 days
- **Number of offspring:** average litter 8-15 piglets (can be up to 20)
- **Weaning age:** 4-6 weeks
- **Body temperature:** 39°C (+/- 0.5°C)
- **Heart rate:** 70 beats/minute (range 60-75)
- **Respiration rate:** 20-50 breaths/minute

**Behaviour:**

Healthy pigs are vigorous and alert. They have moist snouts, warm ears and skin that is in good condition. They have a good appetite, firm dung and breathe steadily. Grunting is common when they are disturbed. Pigs generally seek the company of other pigs, as they are inquisitive by nature and playful with others. With the exception of

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pregnant sows, adult boars and sick animals, pigs should not be kept as solitary animals.

### **Environment:**

The environment will depend upon the level of intensity that is suitable in the school situation. Wherever possible, the maximum amount of space should be provided, with access to the outdoors and environmental enrichment.

Pigs require sufficient space to lie with limbs extended, to be able to stretch and move freely, to sleep, feed and dung. They should have a clean, dry place on which to lie, ensure there is sufficient space, exercise is usually obtained through interactions such as seeking food, water and playful behaviour that is often quite physical. Pigs require sunlight but are susceptible to sunburn and must have access to shady conditions. Particular care needs to be taken with white breeds.

The optimum growth temperature for pigs is 22 0C. For farrowing sows, a range of 20°C-30°C and, for growing piglets, 15°C-30°C, is appropriate.

For sleeping, pigs must be provided with dry nesting material, such as straw, which is placed well away from the excreting area.

Use hoses in well-drained piggeries or shovels to remove solid waste. Alternatively, flushing drains, which are self cleaning, can be installed. Artificial or natural light is required, as it provides a better environment for growth and health.

Ventilation of piggeries should be designed to let fresh air in without causing draughts. Fresh air is necessary to prevent the build-up of poisonous gases, in particular ammonia.

### **Feeding:**

Use pellets as a commercial diet to suit animal type and growth stage, e.g. Pig Grower, Pig Finisher, Sow Pellets and Piglet Creep Feed. Note that the feeding of food scraps, called swill, is illegal.

Most producers demand feed through to slaughter, but good references are available on diet formulation for the various stages of production.

While piglets, growers, finishers and pregnant and lactating sows are demand fed, dry sows and boars should be fed daily in amounts sufficient to maintain condition.

Clean, adequate supplies of water, placed in cool, shaded areas in hot weather are essential. If automatic nipple drinkers are used, they should always be fitted with fail-safe mechanisms.

### **Disease prevention:**

Disease control methods and internal and external parasite control programs should be developed in consultation with veterinarians or the Animal Disease Hotline 1800 675 888. Treatments must be documented in the appropriate records.

### **Breeding:**

### **Handling:**

### **Hygiene:**

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<b>Signs of illness:</b>	<p>Stock health should be monitored at least daily and preferably more often. The first sign noticed is often a change in the animals' natural demeanour. They may be listless or lethargic. Closer examinations may show variations in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• gastrointestinal functions, such as diarrhoea;</li><li>• weight loss or loss of appetite;</li><li>• urogenital functions, e.g. abortion, infertility or abnormal discharges; or</li><li>• respiratory functions, such as persistent coughing, gasping or panting.</li></ul> <p>There may be evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• skin conditions, e.g. lesions, abnormal growths or red, blotchy patches, especially on the ears;</li><li>• a tucked-up appearance, stiff gait, or abnormal posture;</li><li>• excessive scratching or rubbing; or</li><li>• swollen joints or limping.</li></ul> <p>A failure to thrive or grow is another sign of illness.</p> <p>Pigs are prone to arthritis, foot abscesses and minor wounds. Sick animals should be separated for treatment.</p>
<b>Treatments:</b>	<p>If unable to identify and correct the cause of ill-health, assistance should be sought from veterinarians who are familiar with pigs. Treatments must be documented in the appropriate records.</p>
<b>Euthanasia:</b>	<p>When an illness or injury is such that recovery is unlikely then the animal must be euthanased by a veterinarian. Any death must be reported to the Animal Ethics Committee using the appropriate form (see section relating to ADVERSE EVENTS). Forms are available on the relevant websites – see contact details below.</p>
<b>Disposal/fate planning:</b>	<p>Pigs can be sold privately, at auction or consigned to abattoirs. Carcasses must be disposed of in accordance with local council regulations.</p>
<b>Holiday and weekend care:</b>	<p>Pigs need to be monitored, checked daily and fed regularly over weekends and holiday periods. Particular care should be taken during periods of extreme heat and cold for animals kept in sheds.</p>
<b>Approved activities:</b>	<p>Observation, breeding, farming</p>
<b>Resources:</b>	
<b>Websites:</b>	<p><a href="http://www.pir.sa.gov.au">www.pir.sa.gov.au</a></p>