



Ministeriet for Fødevarer,  
Landbrug og Fiskeri  
Fødevarestyrelsen

# Transport of slaughter pigs and sows

SvineVet Årsmøde 2025

SvineVets årsmøde 2025,  
Agerskov

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**2011-2013: Veterinary Officer, DVFA**

**2013-2020: Official veterinarian, DVFA**

**2020-2021: Veterinary Officer, DVFA**

**2021 → : Official Veterinarian, DVFA**

**Animal welfare inspection on pig farms**

**Inspection of live pigs for export**

**Wencke C. Petersen, DVM, MSc**

**2006-2014: Meat Inspector, KK Tønder, DVFA**

**2014-2020: Meat Inspector KK Blans and  
Christiansfeld, DVFA**

**2020 → : Official Veterinarian, DVFA**

**Transportation group**

**Transportability courses**

**Master in Animal Welfare Assessment, 2016**

# Agenda

- **Legislation**
  - Suitability for different kinds of transport
- **Transport guide**
  - Hernia
  - Tail bite
  - Lameness
  - Ear wounds og blood ear
- **Slaughter pigs**
  - Impact marks
  - Excessive/misplaced tattooing
- **SOWS**
  - Weakened and emaciated sows
  - Weather conditions
  - Fat versus skinny sows
  - Overgrown or deform hooves
  - Shoulder wounds (fully healed)

# Legislation

## The animal welfare law

### § 1. The purpose of the law is to promote good animal welfare

- protection of animals
- respect for animals as living and sentient beings
- animal ethical considerations

### § 2. Animals are living beings and must be treated responsibly

- protected from pain, suffering, anxiety, lasting harm and significant inconvenience.

### § 3. Animals must be treated with care

- housing
- feeding and watering
- care taking (physiological, behavioural and health needs)



# Legislation

## EU Regulation on the protection of animals during transport

- The journey must be as short as possible.
- Animals must be fit for the intended journey.
- Animals must be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering.



# Legislation

## Injured animals are not fit for transport

- unable to move independently without pain or unable to walk unassisted.
- present a severe open wound, or prolapse.
- pregnant females (+90% of the gestation period) or females who have given birth in the previous week.





# Legislation

Slightly injured or ill animals may be fit for transport if the transport does not cause additional suffering

- gentle transport on special terms
- separate box
  - extra space
  - extra bedding

In cases of doubt, veterinary advice must be sought!

**Not for export!**



# Legislation

## The Veterinary Health Council's definition of animals not suited for transport

- Unable to walk or stand on their own.
- Lamé or severely limping.
- Distinct walking difficulties due to diagnosed or suspected broken bones, slipped joints or painful inflammatory conditions in the limbs.
- General weakness.

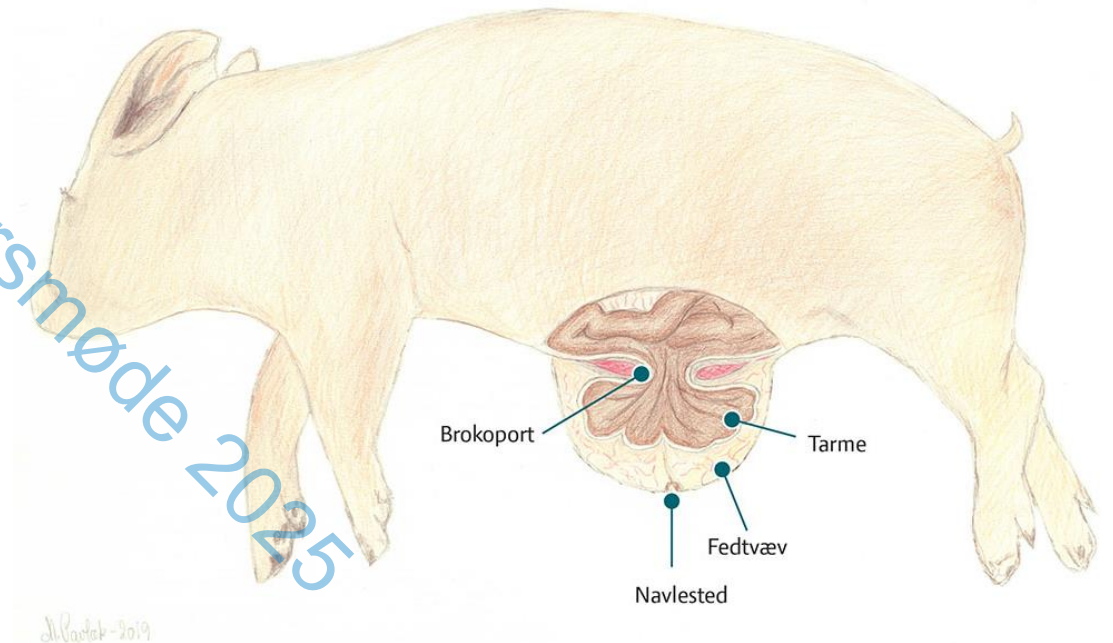




# Legislation

## The Veterinary Health Council's opinion on umbilical hernia and inguinal hernia

- Slaughter pigs: hernia > 15 cm in diameter is considered a large hernia
- Slaughter pigs with large hernias are not suited for transport if
  - the hernia has wounds
  - the pig has impaired mobility
  - the pig is generally affected
  - there are signs of complications
- If suited for gentle transport
  - separated from healthy animals
  - max 5 pigs
  - extra space
  - extra bedding
  - veterinary certificate



# Legislation

## **Slightly injured or ill animals**

- must be separated from other animals during transport

- extra bedding

**non-slip surface**

**In case of doubt: Veterinary advice and certificate ("slagteattest")**

## **Slaughter pigs with hernia**

- max 5 pigs

- extra space

- extra bedding

- non-slip surface

- veterinary certificate ("brokattest")

## Transport guide

- Hernia
- Tail bite
- Lameness
- Ear wounds and blood ear

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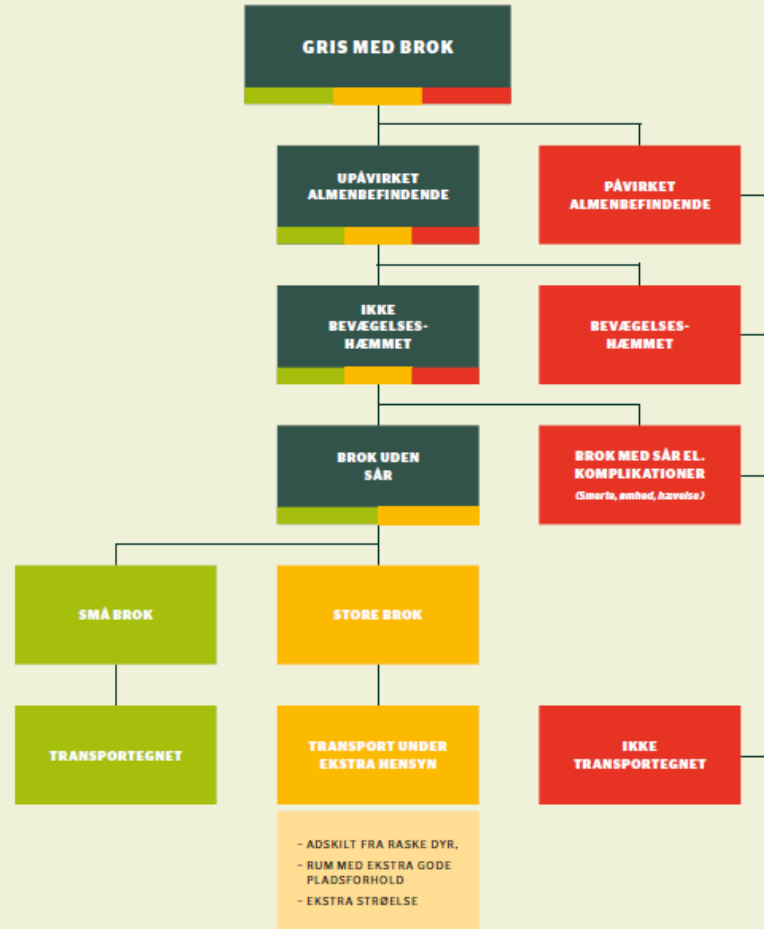
## TRANSPORT- GUIDE

VURDERING AF  
TRANSPORTEGNETHED  
OG SKADER OPSTÅET  
UNDER TRANSPORT



# Hernia

## NAVLEBROK HOS GRISE



**NB!** Diagrammet er udelukkende vejledende. Der skal altid foretages en konkret vurdering, hvor dyrets tilstand sammenholdes med transportens planlægning og forløb.



Small hernia without wounds.  
Generally unaffected.  
Mobility is unimpaired.

Suitable for transport.

Large hernia without wounds/lesions.  
Generally unaffected.

Suitable for gentle transport.

Large hernia with severe wound.

Not suitable for transport.



## Small hernia with wound, perforation during transport





# Slaughter pig, small hernia (enterocytoma) with wound





# Inguinal hernia

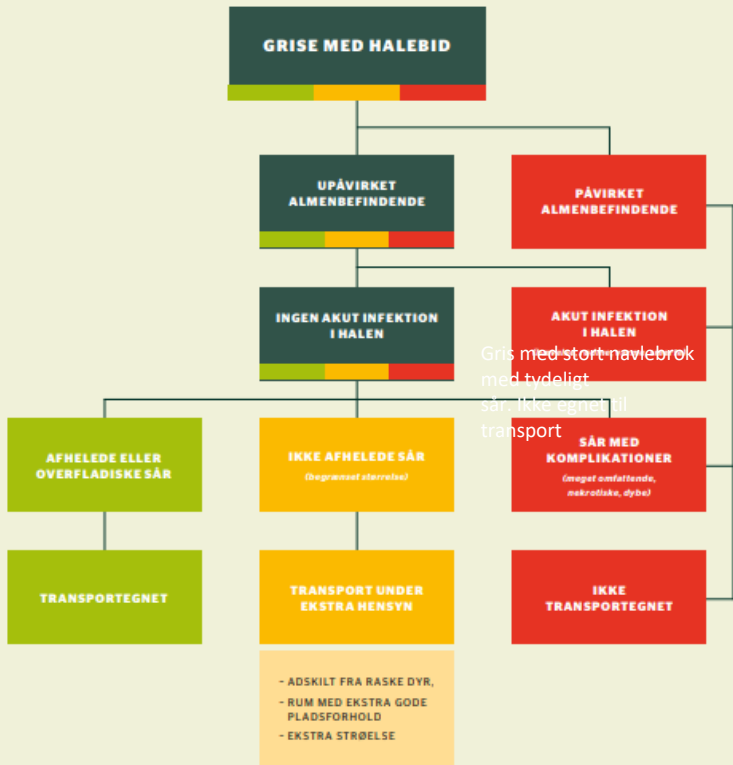


# Inguinal hernia



# Tail bite

## HALEBID HOS GRISE



**NB!** Diagrammet er udelukkende vejledende. Der skal altid foretages en konkret vurdering, hvor dyrets tilstand sammenholdes med transportens planlægning og forløb.



Tail bite. Small superficial dry wound.  
No signs of infection of deeper tissue.  
Not sore or warm.

Suitable for transport.



Tail bite. Unhealed wound.  
Not generally affected.  
No acute infection or signs of spreading to the joint or bone.

Suitable for gentle transport.



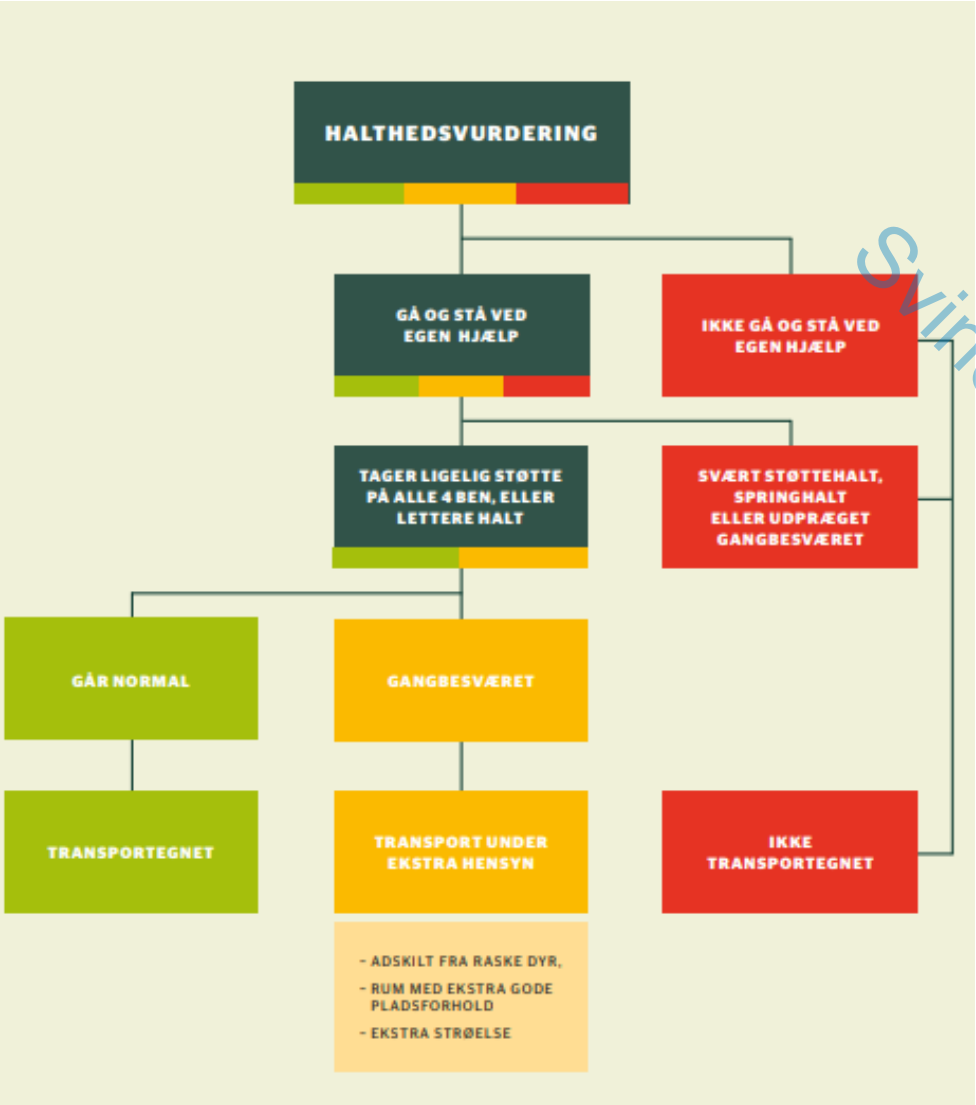
Tail bite with severe wound.

Not suitable for transport.





# Lameness



Normal gait (even weight distribution on all four legs).  
Uncomplicated local swelling (no redness, warmth or pain).  
No swelling on the other side of the leg.

Suitable for transport.

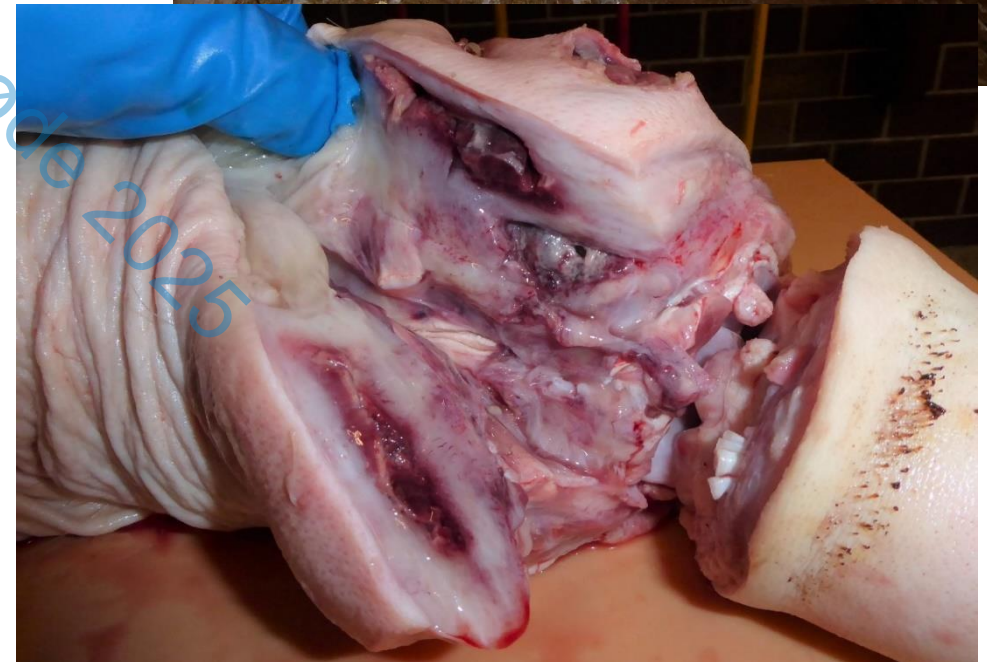
Sow with overgrown hooves.  
Slightly impaired gait due to incorrect leg position.

Suitable for gentle transport.

Lame slaughter pig with swollen joint.  
Swelling, warmth and pain.

Not suitable for transport.

# Lameness, infected arthritis





# Lameness





## Lameness due to hoof abscess

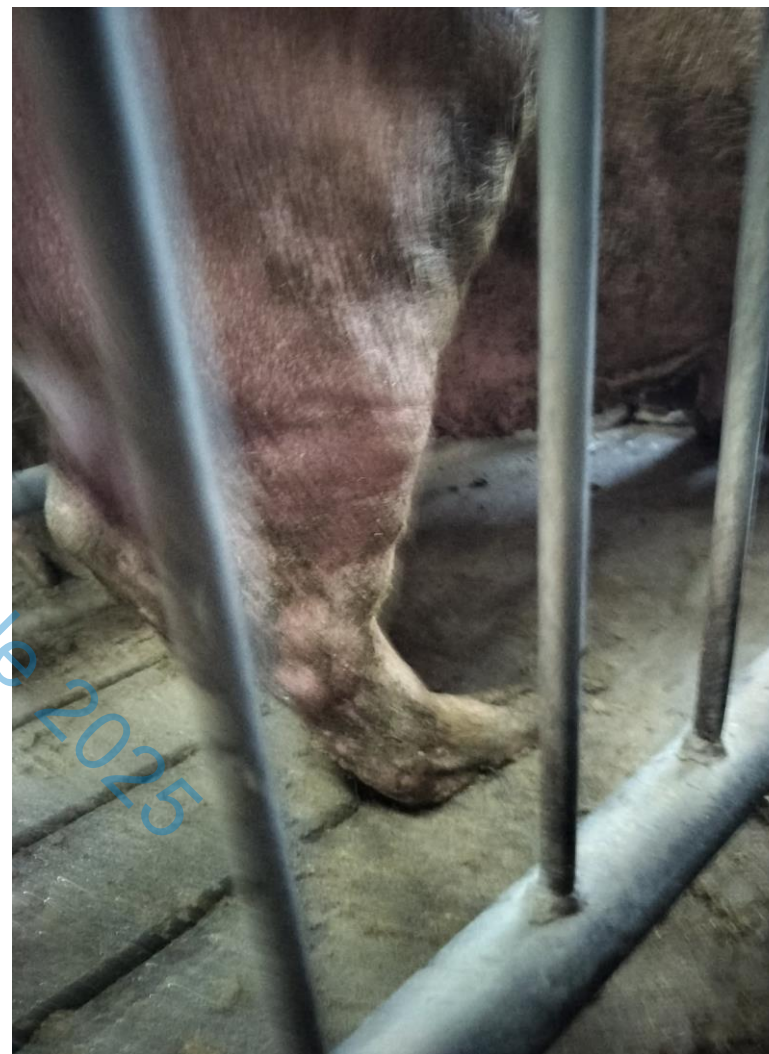




## Lame sow, not separated on truck, video



## Lameness due to overgrown hooves



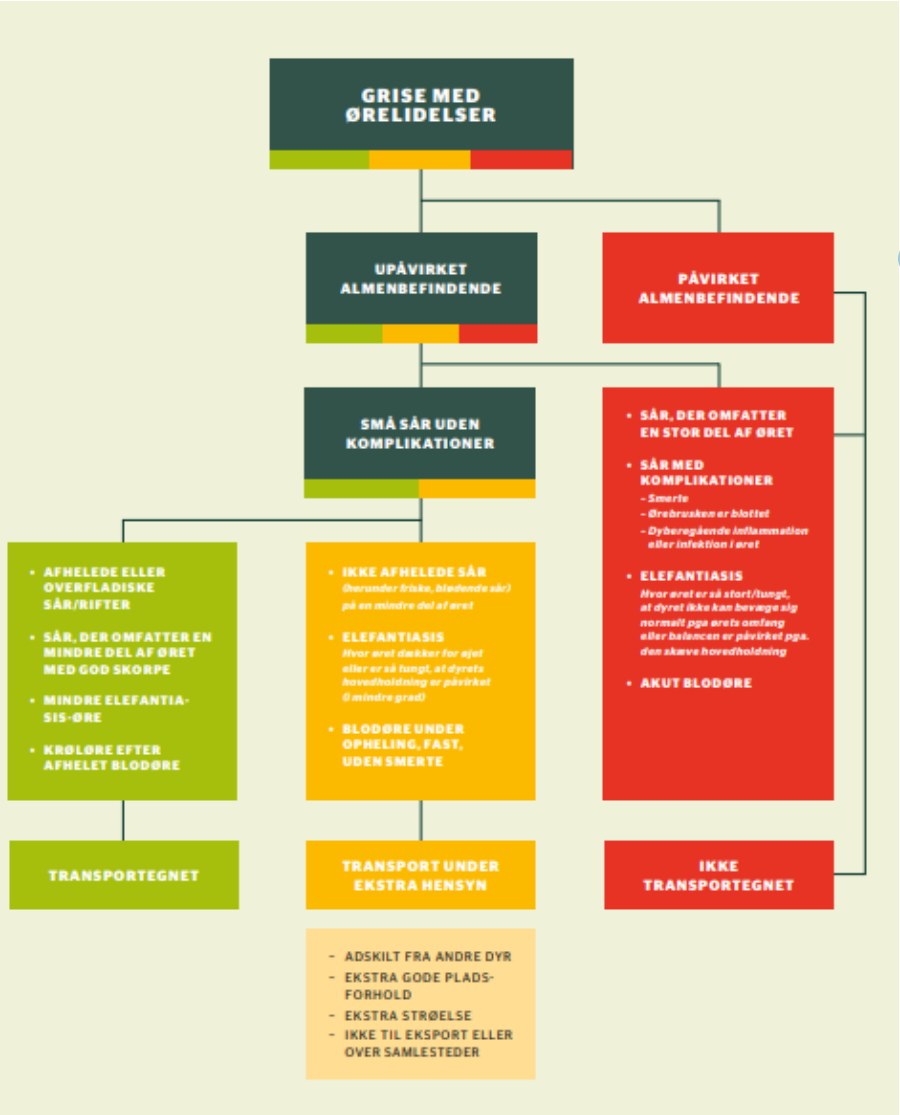


## Limping due to deform hooves





# Ear wounds og blood ear



Ear with dry crusty superficial wound. No soreness.

Suitable for transport.



Pig with ear wounds on both ears. No soreness. The crust of the wound adheres to the skin and covers the entire wound.

Suitable for transport.

# Ear wounds og blood ear



Ear wound. The crust partially covers the wound.  
The open part of the wound is moist and sore.  
No signs of deeper infection.

Not suitable for regular transport.  
May be suitable for gentle transport.



Ear wounds bleeding where the crusts have been removed.  
No signs of infection of the deeper tissue.  
No swelling or soreness.

Not suitable for regular transport.  
Suitable for gentle transport.



Ear wounds on both sides.  
Open wounds with bleeding.  
No signs of infection of the deeper tissue.  
Cartilage is covered by granulation tissue.

Not suitable for regular transport.  
Suitable for gentle transport.



Elephantiasis of the ear covering the eye.

Not suitable for regular transport.  
Suitable for gentle transport.

# Ear wounds and blood ear



Bleeding ear wound.  
Generally affected.  
The wound is sore and smells bad.  
Cartilage is visible.  
Demarcation line and necrosis  
Not suitable for transport.



Ear wound along the edges of the ears.  
Cartilage is visible.  
Swelling (left ear). Signs of inflammation of the deeper tissue.  
Not suitable for transport.



Inflammation of both ears.  
Bleeding wound at the edge of the ear.  
Both ears are warm, swollen and sore.  
Generally affected and has a fever.  
Not suitable for transport.



Acute blood ear.  
Not suitable for transport.



# Other conditions

## Slaughter pigs

- **Impact marks**
- **Excessive/misplaced tattooing**

## Sows

- **Weakened and emaciated sows**
- **Weather conditions**
- **Fat versus skinny sows**
- **Overgrown or deform hooves**
- **Shoulder wounds (fully healed)**

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# Impact marks



# Impact marks, bleeding





## Excessive tattooing



Multiple tattoos  
on one side.

## Misplaced tattoo



Tattoo across the vulva

## Hot weather





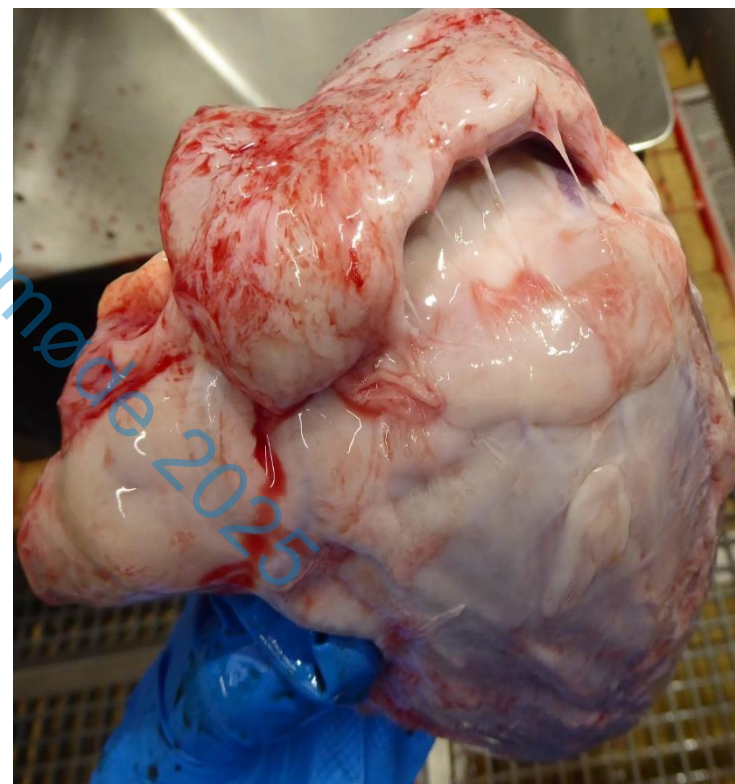
## Hot weather, fat sows



Fat sow lying on the cold floor for 30 minutes after unloading.

Still affected. Panting.

## Skinny, limping, big wound



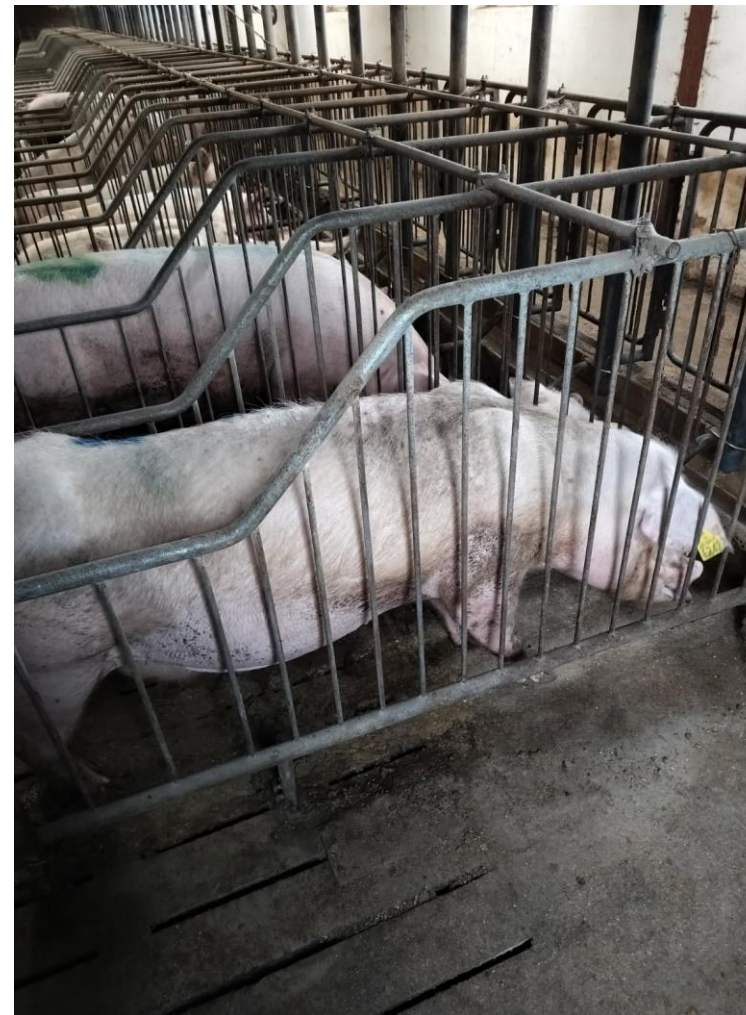


## Skinny with fever (41,1°C)





# Skinny





## Shoulder wounds after healing



