

## **Pig Restraint**

### **Category**

3 (Teaching and extension activity with greater impact on animals)

4 (Research)

### **Objective**

The objective of this Standard Operating Procedure is to provide guidance to Charles Sturt University students to restrain pigs so that other procedures can be carried out.

### **Alternatives to animal use**

Use of video presentations

### **Details of Procedure**

#### **Safety measures:**

Wear clean overalls, appropriate rubber boots and sun protection as needed.

Do not use electric prodders or hit animals.

Be aware that sows with young piglets may become aggressive towards staff in their environment.

Do not try to work with piglets while within reach of the sow's head as the sow may attack the person who is interfering with her piglets.

Adult and young pigs can be quite noisy when they are handled. This may not necessarily indicate that they are distressed or in pain. Ask your supervisor for advice if you are uncertain.

Do not restrain pigs for longer than is ethically approved.

Wash hands and exposed body parts thoroughly with soap and water after handling animals.

For your own safety, make sure that all WH&S conditions on lifting are met.

#### **Procedure:**

Restraint used on pigs should involve the minimum force necessary to complete the procedure. The type of restraint imposed depends on the degree of immobility required and the age/size of the pig.

**Under 15 Kg:** mild to strong restraint can be applied by holding the pig in the arms or between the knees.

**Over 15 Kg:** mild restraint can be achieved by running the pig into a confined area or by the use of boards to block free movement. Strong restraint is best achieved by the use of snout or snubbing rope. The snout rope can be made of either braided wire, plastic or hemp rope of small diameter. A noose is formed, catching the upper jaw. The rope should be placed well back in the mouth to ensure that the pig cannot dislodge it. The rope is pulled to tighten the loop and usually tied to an immovable object (post). For best effectiveness the rope should be tied with as little slack as possible between the pig and the post with the pigs

head at a normal standing height. The loop should be such that the noose can be quickly loosened and removed when the pig is to be released.

Ensure that the pig is not left tied up for long periods of time. The restraint should only be used for short procedures.

## **Drugs, chemicals or biological agents**

Nil

## **Impact of procedure on wellbeing of animal or animals**

The procedure is well tolerated.

## **Reuse and repeated use**

Procedure should only be carried out twice per animal per day.

## **Care of animals during / after procedure(s)**

Observe for signs of stress reaction.

## **Pain relief measures**

Nil

## **Qualifications, experience or training necessary to perform this procedure**

Demonstrators should be familiar with the correct techniques before attempting this procedure.

**Additional information can be found at:** Pig Handling and Restraint - University of Queensland

[https://research.uq.edu.au/files/17874/sop\\_att\\_022\\_pig\\_handling\\_and\\_restraint.pdf](https://research.uq.edu.au/files/17874/sop_att_022_pig_handling_and_restraint.pdf)