CHAPTER 7.13.

ANIMAL WELFARE AND PIG PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

[...]

Article 7.13.4.

Criteria (or measurables) for the welfare of pigs

The following outcome-based criteria (or measurables), specifically animal-based criteria, can be useful indicators of *animal welfare*. The use of these indicators and their appropriate thresholds should be adapted to the different situations in which pigs are managed such as regional differences, *herd* health, pig breed or crossbreed, and climate. Consideration should also be given to the resources provided and the design of the systems. These criteria can be considered as tools to monitor the efficiency of design and management, given that they can affect *animal welfare.*

1.   Behaviour

Certain behaviours appear to be indicators of good animal welfare and health in pigs such as play and specific vocalisations.

Certain other behaviours could indicate an *animal welfare* and health problem. These include sudden immobility, escape attempts, changes in *feed* and water intake, altered locomotory behaviour or posture, altered lying time, postures and patterns, altered respiratory rate and panting, coughing, shivering and huddling, high-pitched vocalisations and increased call rate, increased agonistic (including aggression), stereotypic, apathetic or other abnormal behaviours.

Environments that induce stereotypies typically also reduce animal welfare. Although stereotypies are generally held to indicate poor welfare, there are some instances where there is a poor association between stereotypies and stress. For example, frustration-induced stress may be somewhat rectified if the behaviour itself reduces the underlying motivation. Within a group, individuals that perform stereotypies may thus be coping more successfully than those that do not. Nevertheless, stereotypies indicate either a present problem for the animal or a past problem that has resolved. As with other indicators, caution should be used when using stereotypies as a welfare measure in isolation from other indicators.

[...]

Article 7.13.15.

Air quality

Good air quality and ventilation are important for the welfare and health of pigs and reduce the risk of respiratory discomfort, diseases and abnormal behaviour. Dust, toxins, microorganisms and noxious gases, including ammonia, hydrogen sulphide, and methane caused by decomposing animal waste, can be problematic in indoor systems.

Air quality is influenced strongly by management and building design in housed systems. Air composition is influenced by stocking density, the size of the pigs, flooring, bedding, waste management, building design and ventilation system.

Proper ventilation, without draughts, particularly for young pigs, is important for effective heat dissipation in pigs and to prevent the build-up of effluent gases (e.g. ammonia and hydrogen sulphide), including those from manure and dust in the housing unit. The ammonia concentration in enclosed housing should not exceed 25 ppm. A useful indicator is that if air quality at the level of the pigs is unpleasant for humans it is most likely a problem for pigs.

Annex 6 (contd)

Animal-based criteria (or measurables): morbidity, mortality and culling rates, physical appearance (discharges from nose or eyes), behaviour (especially respiratory rate, coughing and tail biting), change in body weight and body condition.

> Comment: African Union is of the opinion that culling is a human activity and not an animal-based criteria. AU therefore seeks clarification on whether measurable criteria is being generalized to include human activities.

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