

H3 - Behaviour



Pigs with normal behaviour

1. Approach a person in the pen without attacking.
2. Quickly calm down - within 10 minutes.
3. Lie down in partial lateral position in the lying area.
4. Rest, breathe calmly without coughing.
5. Eat and drink without fighting.
6. Move untroubled.



Abnormal behaviour

- Generally a high level of activity - the pigs do not calm down easily (takes more than 10 - 15 min.).
- High level of activity = High level of noise.
- Pigs that are screaming.
- Restlessness - some pigs walk around searching, while the others rest.
- Pigs that bite, nibble, suck on pen equipment or on other pigs.
- Aggressive behaviour towards humans.
- Pigs that are heavy-breathing, coughing, are lame or showing other signs of disease.

Additional comments - Behaviour	
1.	It is normal for pigs to approach humans entering the pen, but it is not normal to attack humans.
2.	<p>Pigs should take no more than 10-15 minutes to calm down after being forced to stand up.</p> <p>Under normal circumstances, pigs will be doing the same things at the same time. It is an indication that something is wrong if some of the pigs are walking around restlessly, while the others are resting.</p> <p>It is abnormal behaviour for pigs to bite, nibble or suck each other and is it abnormal for pigs to thrust pen mates under their stomach. Often, the smallest pigs in the pen are the ones showing signs that something is wrong.</p> <p>Increased activity is an indication that something is not right. This is best observed in periods when the pigs would normally be resting. Be familiar with the daily rhythm of your herd.</p>
3.	<p>Pigs are unable to perspire, and they therefore regulate their temperature by wallowing and lying down in different positions. Look at how the pigs are lying as an indication of whether the temperature in the pen is correct.</p> <p><i>Huddling:</i> is a reaction to cold or draught.</p> <p><i>Prone position:</i> the pigs compensate for a low temperature in the pen.</p> <p><i>Partial prone position:</i> the temperature is just right, particularly in pens with partially slatted floor. It is an early indication that the temperature is becoming too high if the pigs move away from the back wall.</p> <p><i>Lateral position:</i> the temperature is getting too high. If the pigs have enough room, they do not necessarily wallow.</p>
5.	<p>Too few feeding points will increase fighting, and tail biting may also be observed.</p> <p>Feeders that do not function or are empty will cause fights. If you have a break in feeding, make it one, uninterrupted night break. The duration of the break may vary, but there must be full feed supply the rest of the time.</p> <p>Pigs' normal behaviour is to follow the daily rhythm of the group in terms of feeding and resting periods.</p>
6.	Healthy pigs move freely and without problems in the pen.