

Swine Health Guide



Swine Health Recommendations: Organizers of Exhibitions and Sales

With the animals being commingled at an exhibition, show or sale, spreading disease is a risk. The recommendations listed apply to all swine at an exhibit or sale that are physically on the premise. Having a plan in place to identify and handle sick animals properly will help reduce the chance of disease spread.

Prior to the exhibition:

Identify a veterinarian being available for activities to assist the organizers with the show, including:

- Animal check-in
- Daily health evaluation during the show or exhibit
- Sample collection and submission
- Determining actions for sick pigs including: removal from the exhibit, isolation and/or treatment

Post the veterinarian's contact number at the exhibit office and within the barn.

Write up and discuss a plan to address potential animal health issues with the veterinarian and exhibit staff in order to coordinate all efforts including sample collection if needed.

Ensure that all exhibition staff assisting with the event become familiar with the clinical signs of a sick pig (such as fever, off-feed, lethargy, nasal discharge, cough, and diarrhea) and will relay that information to the veterinarian or primary organizer contact.

- Understand the risks to both humans and animals of having a sick pig at an exhibition.
- See link for fair information: www.usaha.org/Portals/6/news/Swine%20Exhibitions%202013.pdf
- Locate an isolation area away from the main exhibit to be used in the event sick pigs are identified:
 - › An off-site location is preferable
 - › If not possible, utilize an area blocked off from public and animal traffic
 - › Utilize staff personnel that do not have any contact with other pigs on the fairgrounds

Other animals, such as dogs and cats, can physically transfer pathogens. To prevent spread of diseases, request that pets be kept home and not brought to the exhibit.

At the exhibit:

At check-in, each pig should be evaluated and any sick pigs should not be unloaded. Options can include:

- Send the pig(s) immediately home
- Utilize isolation

Check-in recommendations to prevent potential disease spread:

- Exhibit officials should avoid entry into the trailers; Owners should provide health certificate for exhibit staff to review outside of the trailer
- If exhibit officials have to enter a trailer to examine an animal, use disposable coveralls and boots and dispose of after single use
- Use a hand-washing station between loads or have hand sanitizers or wipes available

All animals shall have an accompanying health certificate signed by an accredited veterinarian

- Include premises identification number (Required for PQA Plus® certification or other state equivalent)
- Record the official ID for each pig taken to the exhibition on the health certificate
- Refer to the State Veterinarian's office for specific animal identification requirements
- Health certificates are valid for 30 days

Observe swine daily for signs of illness, which may include fever, lethargy, lack of an appetite, nasal discharge, cough or diarrhea.

Report any illness to the primary veterinarian or the appropriate exhibition staff (i.e. swine superintendent) so the pig can be evaluated.

Swine deemed to be ill should be removed from the exhibition immediately.

Use precautions when caring for sick pigs to minimize the opportunity for disease transmission to other pigs or people:

- Do not re-stock the sick pigs' pen with other animals
- Halt or limit foot traffic around the pen
- Scoop or sweep manure back into the pen and then carry the shovel or broom to isolation
- Wash hands after handling sick pigs and change clothing and boots



Recommendations for isolation:

- The isolation area is an area away from general exhibit traffic and other animals. It can be a small room or an area of the barn where no other animals are housed.
- Only the individuals who care for the pig and the attending veterinarian should enter the area.
- Disposable coveralls and plastic boots should be worn when entering the area and removed and thrown away when leaving.
- A hand-wash station or hand sanitizer should be available at the entrance of the isolation.
- A trash can should be placed in a convenient location for use in isolation only.
- Supplies such as buckets and feed pans should not be shared between pigs in isolation and other animals.
- All equipment should be thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and allowed to dry after use in isolation.