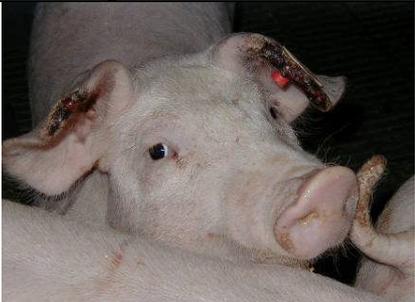


The pig and the Law

The student will be expected to have knowledge of the current Acts and Regulations covering the pig and poultry in Western Australia. These regulations can be found at the Department of Local Government and Regional Development, Government of Western Australia at <http://www.dlgrd.wa.gov.au>.

The lecture will discuss welfare issues facing pigs including sow housing issues.

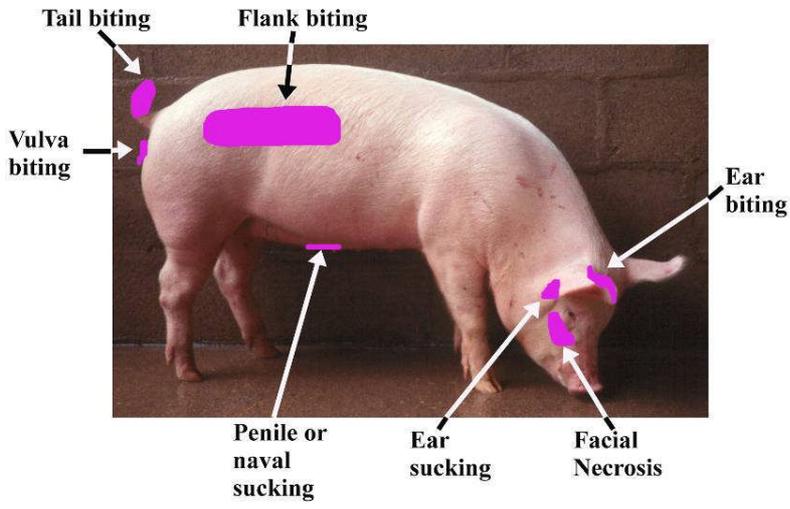
Management of vice in pig

Causal agent	None specifically	
Age group	The demonstration of vices can occur in all age groups	
Clinical signs		
	Tail biting - grow/finishing pig, rarely in adults	
	Flank biting – grow/finish	
	Vulva biting - adult females when loosed housed	
	Ear sucking/ear biting – in nursery pigs	
	Penile sucking – newly weaned pigs	
Facial necrosis	Bar biting and other stereotypy's	
		
Tail biting	Flank biting	Vulva biting
		
Ear biting	Ear sucking	Penile sucking

Causes		
Check the following:	Stressed and deprived pigs	
	Check stocking density. Check tail length, in particular variability. Check feed particle size (target > 500 µm). Check salt (NaCl) concentration in feed. Check water supplies. Check for evidence of a draft at pig heights (draft air speed > 0.2 m/sec). Check air quality (target - NH ₃ < 20 ppm H ₂ S < 10 ppm and CO ₂ < 3000 ppm). Check humidity (target between 50 and 75%). Check light intensity. Check water supplies. Check feeder space availability. Check 24 hour temperature fluctuations. Mixing pigs. Moving pigs. Facial necrosis is associated with lactation failure.	
Treatment		
	Find offending pig – this may be difficult	
	Look for the gaunt smaller middle order pig, often with chronic mild diarrhea	
	Remove affected pigs to a hospital pen	
	Treat with sprays/wound dressings	
	Consider euthanasia if pig severely affected, lame or has other abscesses	
Control	Increase salt (NaCl) concentration to 0.9% - ensure the water supply is excellent	
Review environmental factors	Air	in particular drafts – 90% association with tail biting Gasses – in particular NH₃, CO₂, CO Weather changes – high pressure Inappropriate/variable temperatures
	Water	Fighting over inadequate water Urine concentrated in sows makes vulva biting more likely Water trough placement in sows
	Feed	Check for mycotoxins Fighting over feed availability
	Floor	Check stocking density – both under and overstocking Inadequate sleeping area
	Stock	Some genetics may be more aggressive in some environments
		Provide distractions through toys – chains for example
		Improve pig flow – remove under and over stocking
		Check tail docking principles – pigs do not like variable pig tail lengths
		
		
	Chains can provide great distraction for pigs	
	Tires should be avoided as they contain metal parts and may block parts of the pen	

Facial necrosis	Enhance lactation output – three major areas to examine: Overfeeding in gestation, poor water intake in lactation and too high a farrowing house room temperature.
Post-mortem findings	
	Injury to the skin. Sequelae to vices include – pulmonary millary abscesses, vegetative endocarditis, bacteriaemia, spinal abscessation and single or multiple discrete abscesses throughout the body

AREAS OF VICE

		
Tail biting	Flank biting	Ear biting
		
Vulva biting		
		
Penile or naval sucking	Ear sucking	Facial necrosis