

# SHOULD THIS PIG BE LOADED? Guidelines for Transporting Pigs



**Load Healthy  
Pigs**

**Do Not Load  
Do Not Transport**



## Delay Transportation and Reassess

- dehydration
- fever (normal range 38.5°C to 39.5°C)
- sows that have farrowed within 48 hours, or likely to farrow during transport or upon arrival at market
- total blindness (consider on-farm slaughter)
- stressed pigs showing signs of:
  - exhaustion
  - heat stress
  - weakness
  - porcine stress syndrome



## Euthanize

- Non-ambulatory, Lameness Class 4 & 5 (see reverse)
- fractures of limbs or spine
- any case where pigs are unable to eat or drink due to injury or disease
- chronic "poor-doers" or emaciated (extremely thin) pigs (see reverse)
- pigs suffering from severe non-responsive disease
- prolapsed uterus
- arthritis involving multiple joints
- nervous disorders, such as rabies must be reported to CFIA; contact your vet before euthanizing
- hernia that impedes movement, is painful, or touches the ground
- severe recent injury

**Non-ambulatory animals:** Unable to stand without assistance, or unable to move without being dragged or carried (downers). **Do not load or transport.**

### Lame animals:

- Animals should not be loaded if at risk of going down in transit.
- Pigs that can't bear weight on all four legs may be in pain and are at risk of going down during transit. These pigs are often euthanized at sales and plants.

**Do Not Transport to a Sale or an Assembly Yard**



**Transport With Special Provisions  
Direct to Slaughter**

### As Soon As Possible

- abscess and local infections (no fever)
- recent prolapsed vagina or rectum
- Lameness Classes 1, 2 (see reverse)
- penile or vulva injury
- severe dewclaw injury
- first stage anorexia or weight loss (no fever)
- frost bite
- partial blindness
- severe tail bite or vulva bite
- smoke inhalation

*These pigs must walk on their own and travel in a small compartment, individually or with one quiet pig.*

**Animals with multiple conditions may not be fit to transport.**

## Emergency On-Farm Slaughter

If an animal is fit for human consumption but not fit for transport (i.e. injured but not sick) emergency on-farm slaughter may be an option. Please consult with your provincial government for more information on the availability of emergency on-farm slaughter in your province.

# Information on Dealing with Compromised Pigs

## Federal Transportation Regulations

Health of Animals Regulations [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca)

### DO

- Ensure that animals segregated in trucks receive extra protection from cold and wind chill; supply ample bedding.
- Segregate boars, animals of different weights and ages, or if incompatible by nature.
- Provide proper ventilation, drainage and absorption of urine.
- Have sufficient headroom for animals to stand in a natural position.
- Either cover the vehicle floor with sand or have the vehicle fitted with safe footholds, in addition to appropriate bedding.
- Ensure that animals unloaded for feed, water and rest remain at least five hours and longer, if necessary, for all animals to receive food and water.
- Euthanize animals promptly as the conditions outlined on the reverse occur.

### DO NOT

- Transport a sick or injured animal where undue suffering may result, or when the animal is liable to give birth during the journey.
- Continue to transport an animal that is injured, becomes ill, or is otherwise unfit to travel beyond the nearest place it can be treated.
- Use prods on the face, anal, udder or genital area.
- Load or unload animals in a way that would cause injury or undue suffering.
- Crowd animals to such an extent as to cause injury or undue suffering.
- Transport livestock in trailers not designed for safe handling of that species or class of livestock.

Source: *Transporting Livestock by Truck (CFIA)*

## Lameness Classes

Transport as soon as possible

### Class 1

Visibly lame but can keep up with the group.

### Class 2

Unable to keep up; some difficulty climbing ramps. Load in rear compartment.

**Do Not Load or Transport\***

### Class 3:

Requires assistance to rise, but can walk freely.

### Class 4

Requires assistance to rise; reluctant to walk; halted movement.

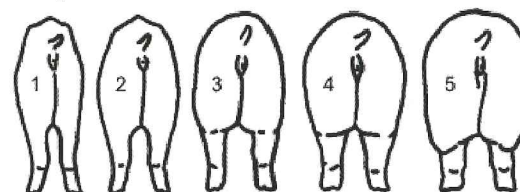
### Class 5: Non-ambulatory

Unable to rise or remain standing.

**\* Any animal, including Lameness Classes 3, 4 or 5 may be loaded for transport for veterinary treatment under veterinary supervision.**

CONTACT  
LOCAL CFIA  
DISTRICT  
OFFICE.

## Body Condition Scores of Sows



Score	Condition	Detection of ribs, backbone, "H" bones, and "pin" bones
1	Emaciated	Obvious
2	Thin	Easily detected with pressure
3	Ideal	Barely felt with firm pressure
4	Fat	None
5	Overly fat	None

Source: *Assessing Sow Body Condition*, Coffey, Parker, Laurent University of Kentucky



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