

**[BAI ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 41, S. 2000,
September 04, 2000]**

**CODE OF PRACTICE AND MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE
WELFARE OF PIGS**

SECTION 1. Basic Policy and Objectives — Welfare considerations are important for the keeping and farming of animals. Standard procedures in animal welfare are not only important legally, but also have direct economic benefits by enhancing productivity.

Good husbandry is essential for good welfare, modern breeding, feeding, housing, and management systems. This will lead to an improvement in the quality of life for the pigs as well as an improvement in the quality of the product. This code is intended to encourage all persons involved in the pig industry to adopt the highest standards of husbandry.

This Code takes into consideration the five basic freedoms of animals which are:

- freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition;
- freedom from physical discomfort and pain;
- freedom from injury and disease;
- freedom to conform to essential behavior patterns; and
- freedom from fear and distress.

Pigs are kept under conditions ranging from backyard to large commercial enterprises where they are totally reliant on humans for all their daily requirements. Those concerned with the day-to-day care of the pigs shall treat them with utmost care and consideration. Their welfare shall be safeguarded under a variety of management systems.

Pigs shall be provided with comfortable and secured accommodations. When pigs are kept outside, they shall have shelter available to protect them from inclement weather and access to shade from direct sunlight. Access to high ground shall be available where there is danger of flooding. Pigs confined in houses shall have sufficient space for each to feed, lie down stretch, and express their normal behavioral patterns. (See Table 2 for the minimum space requirements). Adjustments shall be made when needed.

This Code is based on the knowledge and technology available at the time of publication and may need to be changed and improved in the light of future knowledge. The application of experience and common sense in the husbandry of animals is still important.

Section 2. Definition of Terms

2.1 **Ad Libitum** refers to feeding without limit

2.2 **Animal Transport** refers to modes of transport that would bring the animal from the place of origin to the place of destination using land, air or water as a means of transportation.

2.2.1 **Land Transport** refers to transfer of animals from place of origin to place of destination using land conveyance.

2.2.2 **Air Transport** refers to transfer of animals from place of origin to place of destination using air conveyance.

2.2.3 **Water Transport** refers to transfer of animals from place of origin to place of destination using water conveyance.

2.3 **Backing Board** refers to a board used in herding pigs.

2.4 **Backyard Piggery** refers to the raising of less than 20 sow. They are usually dependent on commercial feedmills for feeds.

2.5 **Boar** refers to a male breeding pig which is at least 8 months old.

2.6 **Canvass Slapper** refers to the equipment used in herding pigs that create slapping sounds.

2.7 **Caretaker** refers to the person or persons assigned to take care of the pigs.

2.8 **Castration** refers to the surgical removal of the testicles.

2.9. **Chill Factor** refers to environmental temperature of 25°C or below that is injuriously cold causing piglets to shiver.

2.10 **Cold Stress** refers to stress/suffering caused by exposure to cold temperatures.

2.11 **Colostrum refers** to the first milk after farrowing and which is rich in antibodies.

2.12 **Commercial Piggery** refers to farm raising more than 20 sows.

2.13 **Culling** refers to separation/segregation of undesirable animals.

2.14 **Disinfectant** refers to substances used to destroy bacteria or other infective microorganisms.

2.15 **Distress** refers to the non-specific response of the animal caused by deprivation of food, rough handling, exhaustion due to long transport, mixing of animals reared separately, etc.

2.16 **Dry Sow** refers to the unproductive sows after weaning.

2.17 **Drug refers** to all chemical substances except foods that are used to promote

or safeguard the health of human and animals.

2.18 **Ear Notching** refers to the identification of pigs which is done through cutting a portion of their ear.

2.19 **Euthanasia refers** to the process of humane destruction of animal accomplished by a method that produces rapid unconsciousness and subsequent death without evidence of pain and distress.

2.20 **Farrowing** refers to the act of giving birth in sows.

2.21 **Farrowing Facilities** refer to a pen/stall/crate used for the sows during farrowing or giving birth.

2.22 **Fostering** refers to the adoption of animals during early suckling stage.

2.23 **Gilt** refers to the unbred female pig at least 8 months old.

2.24 **Husbandry** refers to the act of taking care of animals.

2.25 **Lactation** refers to the process of milk secretion.

2.26 **Licensed Veterinarian** refers to a person who graduated from a veterinary college with the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and duly registered with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and holds a Professional Tax Receipt (PTR), both of which must be current.

2.27 **Loading Ramp** refers to the walkway from pen to trucks and vice versa.

2.28 **Mechanical Probe** refers to the equipment used for measuring fat or detecting pregnancy.

2.29 **Needle/Milk Teeth** refers to the temporary or insidious teeth.

2.30 **Non-Resident Veterinarian** refers to a licensed veterinarian retained/contracted by the pig farm to check and evaluate the veterinary requirements and animal welfare status of the farm at least once a month.

2.31 **Oestrus** refers to the period in heat or period of acceptance of the boar by the sow.

2.32 **Resident Veterinarian** refers to a licensed veterinarian residing in the farm to check and evaluate the veterinary requirements and animal welfare status of the farm.

2.33 **Slaughter** refers to the killing of food animals in accredited slaughterhouses in relation to meat inspection and animal welfare.

2.34 **Serum** refers to the liquid portion after blood clotting or portion of whole blood less RBC and WBC.

2.35 **Sow refers** to the female adult pig that has farrowed.

2.36 **Stocking Density** refers to the rate or number of animals per given area.

2.37 **Stunning refers** to the rendering of a state of immediate insensibility delivered to the animal which should persist until the animals are slaughtered and become permanently insensible. Methods employed include percussive, electrical and gas stunning.

2.38 **Surgery** refers to the procedure performed in the animal with the use of medical instrument involving incision, excision, and/or transection of organs or part of it.

2.39 **Tail Docking** refers to the cutting of a portion of the tail.

2.40 **Tail/Ear Biting** refers to the vice of animals consisting of biting the ears/tails of other animals due to mineral deficiency/overcrowding, etc.

2.41 **Tethering** refers to the confining of animals in certain area by roping.

2.42 **Tongue Piercing** refers to a prohibited practice of making a hole in the tongue for marks or identification.

2.43 **Treatment** refers to the management and care of sick animals with existing disorders by administering the proper medicine.

2.44 **Tusk** refers to the canine teeth of animals.

2.45 **Vaccination** refers to the act of administering biologicals for the purpose of eliciting immune respond.

2.46 **Weaning** refers to the separation of the young from the mother.

Section 3. Legal Responsibilities

3.1 General Responsibilities

3.1.1 The Animal Welfare Act of 1998 (Republic Act No. 8485) aims to protect and promote the welfare of all animals in the Philippines.

3.1.2 All pig farms with stocking level of 300 sows and above must have a Resident Veterinarian and those below must have a Consulting Veterinarian. In both cases, the veterinarians must be registered with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) with current Professional Tax Receipt (PTR).

3.1.3 No person shall commit any of the following acts which shall be deemed violation of this Code.

3.1.3.1 cruelly treating any pig;

3.1.3.2 omitting to supply the pig with proper and sufficient food, water and shelter;

3.1.3.3 willfully or wantonly neglecting the pig resulting in unreasonable or unnecessary pain, suffering, or distress to the animal;

3.1.3.4 slaughtering, branding, mutilating, confining, or carrying any animal in such a manner or position as to cause the pig unnecessary pain or suffering;

3.1.3.5 keeping alive any pig which is in such a condition that is cruel to keep it alive.

3.1.4. Farms with 20-sow level and above shall be registered with the Bureau of Animal Industry.

3.1.5 When pigs are used in feeding trials or scientific purposes, said feeding trials or procedures shall conform with DA AO 40, series of 1999.

3.2 Castration — No person shall castrate any pig over 14 days old, unless the castration is performed by a veterinarian, who must use local or general anaesthesia. This procedure can be done as early as 1 day old and an average age of 3 days.

3.3 Tongue Piercing — No person shall pierce the tongue of a pig or any of its parts.

3.4 Ear Notching —No person shall ear notch piglets that are more than seven days old.

3.5 Tail Docking — Docking as a routine preventive measure may be carried out in piglets during the first three days of life. One third to one half of the tail may be removed by a competent operator. Tail docking of pigs more than 7 days of age shall be undertaken only in an emergency and shall be done by a licensed veterinarian as defined in 2.26.

3.6 Tethering — In backyard farms, tethering may be allowed, provided however, that a minimum of 2.5 meters shall be used for tethering secured overhead. This shall be in the form of a harness with one loop around the neck and the other around the chest behind the elbows. Tethering in the ankle and a ring in the snout are strictly prohibited. In all cases, close tethering shall be prohibited.

3.7 Feed —Feed composition is critical to the welfare of pigs. Advice on suitable feeds and feeding systems for various classes of pigs may be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, through its appropriate agencies, feed mill cooperatives, or other firms.

3.8 Clipping of "Needle" or Milk Teeth — The clipping of "needle" or milk teeth shall be done within 2 days from birth. Provided, however, that no more than one third of the tooth shall be removed. Clean and appropriate equipment shall be used.

Section 4. Indoor Operations (Sections 4-10 shall be mandatory to pig farms with 20-sow level and above).