

### "Should this Pig be Loaded?" Decision Tree

### SHOULD THIS PIG BE LOADED?

**Guidelines for Transporting Pigs** 

### LOAD HEALTHY PIGS

### Do Not Load Do Not Transport – Unfit<sup>1</sup>

### Delay Transportation

- · Signs of dehydration
- Signs of fever (rectal temperature > 39.5°C)
- Sows that have farrowed within 48 hours, or are 100 or more days into their gestation periods
- Recent surgery (not healed) (e.g. castration)
- · Stressed pigs showing any signs of
- Exhaustion (refuses to move)
- Heat stress
- Weakness
- Trembling
- Difficulty breathing
- Skin discolouration/blotchy patches
- Has severe open wound or severe laceration (e.g., Severe tail bite or vulva bite)
- Exhibits any other signs of infirmity, illness, injury or of a condition that indicates that it cannot be transported without suffering (28)

### **Euthanize On-Farm**

- · Non-Ambulatory\*
- · In shock or dying
- · Extremely thin
- Fractured or amputated limb or fractured pelvis
- Fracture that impedes mobility or causes pig to exhibit signs of pain or suffering
- Exposed bone
- Arthritis involving multiple joints
- · Prolapsed uterus
- Rectal stenosis with distension and which renders the animal weak or down
- Hernia\*\*
- Suffering from severe nonresponsive disease
- Severe recent injury

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

# Transport with Special Provisions\*\*\* Direct to Slaughter<sup>2</sup>

### Transport As Soon As Possible

- Ambulatory pig: a pig that can walk and rise without assistance, and exhibits any degree of lameness other than that described in "unfit"
- · Abscess and local infection (no fever)
- · Minor prolapsed vagina or rectum
- Inguinal or umbilical hernias other than those defined under Do Not Transport
- Acute or unhealed penis injury
- Severe dewclaw injury
- First stage anorexia, or weight loss (no fever)
- Open wound (pig may be unfit depending on severity of wound)
- · Acute frostbite
- Blindness
- Smoke inhalation
- Exhibits any other signs of infirmity, illness, injury or of a condition that indicates that it has a reduced capacity to withstand transport (28)
  - Pigs with multiple conditions may not be fit for transport

## \* Non-Ambulatory Animals – an animal that cannot walk or that is unable to stand without assistance or to move without being dragged or carried (28)

### \*\* Hernia - includes at least one of the following criteria:

- Impedes movement
- Exhibits signs of pain
- Touches the ground when the pig is standing in its natural position
- Has an open wound, ulceration, or obvious infection

## \*\*\* Required Special Provisions: A compromised animal must not be loaded, confined, transported or unloaded unless (28):

- It is individually loaded and unloaded without having to negotiate any ramps inside the conveyance
- Measures are taken that are necessary to prevent the animal's suffering, injury or death during loading, confinement, transport and unloading
- It is isolated, and
- It is transported directly to the nearest suitable place, other than an
  assembly centre, where it can be properly cared for, slaughtered or
  euthanized

### **Optional Provisions**

- Extra bedding
- Loading in a rear compartment
- Penning with a familiar companion animal
- Other measures as appropriate

#### Section 136 (1) in Part XII (Transport of Animals) of the Health of Animals Regulations defines "unfit", and includes a list of conditions beyond those listed in this appendix that would render an animal unfit for transport (28).

2 Section 136 (1) in Part XII (Transport of Animals) of the Health of Animals Regulations defines "compromised", and includes a list of conditions beyond those listed in this appendix that would render an animal compromised for transport (28).

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

If an animal has difficulty walking or loading, it is likely that the animal will go down during transport. It is also very likely that it will be subjected to additional suffering and/or injury from trampling as a result of becoming non-ambulatory during the journey. If this is the case transportation is not recommended.

### **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. Consult with your provincial government for more information on the availability of emergency onfarm slaughter in your province.

### An unfit animal may be loaded for transport for veterinary care if (28):

- It is individually loaded and unloaded without having to negotiate any ramps inside the conveyance
- It is isolated during confinement and transport
- Measures are taken to prevent the animal's unnecessary suffering, injury or death during loading, confinement, transport and unloading, and
- A veterinarian recommends that the animal be transported to receive veterinary care

Adapted from: Should this Pig be Loaded? Decision Tree published jointly by BCFACC, AFAC, FACS and OFAC (May, 2010) and from Arbre de Décision Transport des Animaux Fragilisés published by Fédération des producteurs de porcs du Québec (July, 2011)