Pigweb's SOP's
YOUR ROADMAP TO PIG MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE

Elevating research, welfare and ethical standards in pig research facilities

PIGWEB
An infrastructure for experimental research for sustainable pig production

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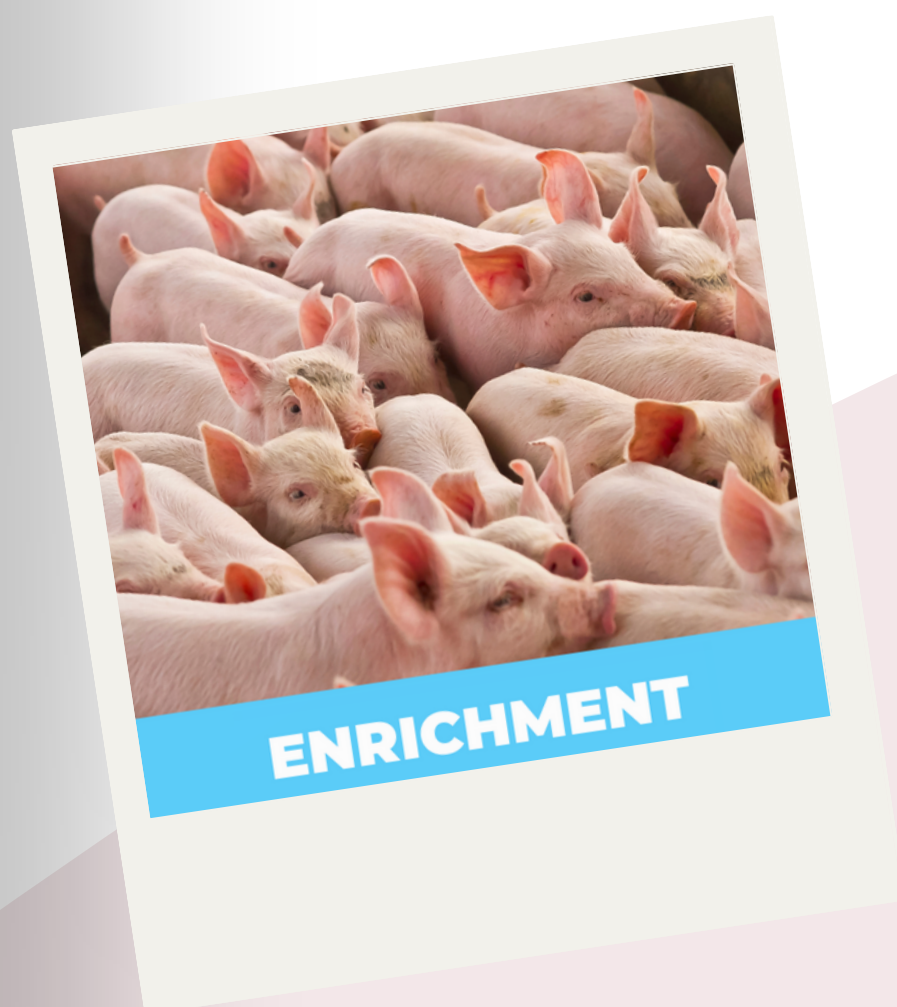
PRACTICE ABSTRACT

1 BRACKGROUND

The European project PIGWEB aims to strengthen the pig research community by providing and facilitating access to research infrastructures.

It also aims to reinforce a culture of cooperation between the research community, industrial and societal stakeholders and improve and integrate the services provided by the research infrastructures. One of PIGWEB's objectives is to harmonise protocols, promote best practices, and encourage the use of standards to ensure high levels of expertise and ethics.

PIGLET WEIGHT

2 PROBLEM & SOLUTION

One of PIGWEB's objectives is to harmonise protocols, promote best practices, and encourage the use of standards to ensure high levels of expertise and ethics. When starting up this work it turned out that only two of the participating partners already had standard operating procedures (SOPs) in place for basic management practices in their research facilities. Both theese facilities reported that they have very good use of their SOPs and the time to develop them was a good investment.

3 RESULTS

ENRICHMENT

What is a standard operating procedure (SOP)?

A clear set of instructions for basic management and research procedures, such as assembling IKEA furniture. Example areas of SOPs for basic managment include stable climate control, provision of enrichment, weighing of pigs and body condition scoring.

Why should we use SOPs in our research facilities?

It is important to follow standard procedures in scientific studies to ensure their quality. Written instructions help to ensure that all staff perform basic management routines consistently. SOPs also facilitate internal communication among facility staff and between staff and researchers.

PIGLET HEALTH

FEED

What should an SOP look like?

An SOP is a written instruction and should include detailed descriptions of the equipment and materials used, how the procedure is carried out (including calibration of equipment), and documentation and registration of information related to the procedure. Photos or drawings can be inlcuded for clarification.
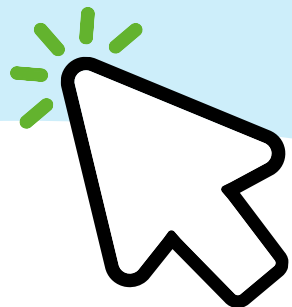
PIGWEB's standard operating procedures

Within the project's scope, eight standard operating procedures have been developed for the following topics: *Body Condition, Enrichment, Feed, Pig Health, Piglet Mortality, Piglet Weight, Slaughter and Stable Climate.*
The SOP templates are developed in English
and are translated into eight partner languages.
These are a starting point to get inspiration
from but should be adjusted to fit each facility.
All SOPs and translations are available
on the website **here.**

Developing your own SOPs

PIGWEB has created 8 standard operating procedures (SOPs), but it is possible that they may not cover all the procedures carried out within your facility.
To address this, we have also provided an empty template that can be used to develop additional SOPs.
You can download the template by clicking here.

Recommendations for SOP development

Use the PIGWEB SOPs as an inspiration to build your own.

Do not make all SOPs at once, start with a few and gradually increase the number of SOPs for the most important management procedures in your facility.

Start with describing the procedures performed in the facility and don't worry about the SOPs being too general.

SOPs are essential in continuous improvement, plan for strategic revisions at least twice a year.

Do not make the SOPs too detailed to avoid the need for revision for minor changes.

Make using the SOPs for internal communication a habit, both among the staff and between staff and researchers.