

4.2 No tail cut

Tail biting

To avoid tail cutting it is important to ensure environmental stimulation, access to dirt to dig in, provision of things such as rope, straw, hay, fresh wood, branches, something chewable or edible that pigs could be able to root in it. It is important to ensure enough sleeping space, feeders and drinkers for the pigs to avoid competition and fighting. Thermal comfort is also very important so pigs should be provided with proper shelter. It is also necessary to ensure proper diet and water for pigs. Moreover, cleanliness in fence near the feeders/drinkers and rest areas should be ensured as well so that pigs avoid stress and thus tail biting.

When pigs are kept in free-range systems tail biting occurs rarely because pigs have good living conditions. They are occupied by explorations of the environment. Moreover, when the area is large, they can more easily avoid aggressive pigs, thus keep away from fighting.



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When tail cutting is avoided, the well-being of pigs is ensured as it is a painful procedure. By improving sanitary conditions farmers can deliver an increase to production performance. If farmer can keep pigs with long tails, that is a key sign that farmer can achieve high management standards.

It is always important to follow the rules. Current European Directive 2008/120/EC states that farmers cannot use tail docking routinely and that it must be carried out when all the necessary measures have been implemented so that pigs do not bite their tails.

Directive 2008/120/EC:

[https://eur-lex.europa.
eu/legal-content/EN/](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/)