Swine Health Guide

# Swine Health Recommendations: Organizers of Exhibitions and Sales

With the animals being commingled at an exhibition, show or sale, spreading disease is a risk. The recommendations listed apply to all swine at an exhibit or sale that are physically on the premise. Having a plan in place to identify and handle sick animals properly will help reduce the chance of disease spread.

## Prior to the exhibition:

**Identify** a veterinarian being available for activities to assist the organizers with the show, including:

- Animal check-in
- Daily health evaluation during the show or exhibit
- Sample collection and submission
- Determining actions for sick pigs including: removal from the exhibit, isolation and/or treatment

**Post** the veterinarian's contact number at the exhibit office and within the barn.

**Write** up and discuss a plan to address potential animal health issues with the veterinarian and exhibit staff in order to coordinate all efforts including sample collection if needed.

**Ensure** that all exhibition staff assisting with the event become familiar with the clinical signs of a sick pig (such as fever, off-feed, lethargy, nasal discharge, cough, and diarrhea) and will relay that information to the veterinarian or primary organizer contact.

- Understand the risks to both humans and animals of having a sick pig at an exhibition.
- See link for fair information: *www.usaha.org/Portals/6/news/Swine%20Exhibitions%202013.pdf*
- Locate an isolation area away from the main exhibit to be used in the event sick pigs are identified:
  - An off-site location is preferable
  - If not possible, utilize an area blocked off from public and animal traffic
  - Utilize staff personnel that do not have any contact with other pigs on the fairgrounds

***Other animals, such as dogs and cats, can physically transfer pathogens. To prevent spread of diseases, request that pets be kept home and not brought to the exhibit.***

## At the exhibit:

**At check-in,** each pig should be evaluated and any sick pigs should not be unloaded. Options can include:

- Send the pig(s) immediately home
- Utilize isolation

**Check-in recommendations** to prevent potential disease spread:

- Exhibit officials should avoid entry into the trailers; Owners should provide health certificate for exhibit staff to review outside of the trailer
- If exhibit officials have to enter a trailer to examine an animal, use disposable coveralls and boots and dispose of after single use
- Use a hand-washing station between loads or have hand sanitizers or wipes available

**All animals** shall have an accompanying health certificate signed by an accredited veterinarian

- Include premises identification number (Required for PQA Plus® certification or other state equivalent)
- Record the official ID for each pig taken to the exhibition on the health certificate
- Refer to the State Veterinarian's office for specific animal identification requirements
- Health certificates are valid for 30 days

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**Observe swine daily** for signs of illness, which may include fever, lethargy, lack of an appetite, nasal discharge, cough or diarrhea.

**Report any illness** to the primary veterinarian or the appropriate exhibition staff (i.e. swine superintendent) so the pig can be evaluated.

**Swine deemed to be ill** should be removed from the exhibition immediately.

**Use precautions** when caring for sick pigs to minimize the opportunity for disease transmission to other pigs or people:

- Do not re-stock the sick pigs' pen with other animals
- Halt or limit foot traffic around the pen
- Scoop or sweep manure back into the pen and then carry the shovel or broom to isolation
- Wash hands after handling sick pigs and change clothing and boots

## Recommendations for isolation:

- The isolation area is an area away from general exhibit traffic and other animals. It can be a small room or an area of the barn where no other animals are housed.
- Only the individuals who care for the pig and the attending veterinarian should enter the area.
- Disposable coveralls and plastic boots should be worn when entering the area and removed and thrown away when leaving.
- A hand-wash station or hand sanitizer should be available at the entrance of the isolation.
- A trash can should be placed in a convenient location for use in isolation only.
- Supplies such as buckets and feed pans should not be shared between pigs in isolation and other animals.
- All equipment should be thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and allowed to dry after use in isolation.