



Photo: Farm Sanctuary. Compare piglets in a straw pen with young pigs crowded into concrete pens. Piglets on straw can exercise and play, root and chew the straw and lie on a comfortable surface. Pigs in concrete pens are crowded, have nothing to do and can only lie on cold, hard concrete.



Red and processed meat increases the risk of colon cancer

The World Cancer Research Fund has advised people to avoid processed meats such as ham, bacon, pepperoni and salami because they are linked to increased risk of cancer. All red meat, including pork is associated with increased risk of colon cancer. There are many healthy alternatives that supply protein and other nutrients.

What can I do?

- There are many healthy foods that involve no bloodshed. Try cruelty-free alternatives to pork, ham and bacon in your meals.
- Investigate the many vegan cookbooks now available, or contact us for some free recipe leaflets.
- It makes a difference even if you start with a few cruelty-free meals a week.
- Join Animal Liberation and support our campaigns to improve the treatment of all animals.

I would like to become a supporter of Animal Liberation and enclose the following membership payment and/or donation:

Individual – \$30 Life – \$500
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Treat your dog this badly and you'll end up in court



Don't support this cruelty by buying pork, ham or bacon

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The pig industry

Over 5 million piglets are raised and killed each year in Australia for pork, bacon and ham. The majority of pigs are kept in crowded sheds on concrete floors without straw or other bedding. They are trucked off to slaughter when they are only 4-6 months old.

Breeding pigs in a concrete and metal prison

Around two-thirds of breeding females (sows) in Australia are forced to spend some or all of their pregnancy in small stalls surrounded by metal bars. The stalls are only big enough to allow sows to stand without touching both sides, and to lie without touching the front and back at the same time. They can never turn around, and can only walk 1 step forward or back.

Lack of exercise and standing on hard concrete causes many sows to become lame. Some are so badly affected they have to be killed. These kinds of joint problems are just as painful in pigs as they are in humans.



Stalls are so small that legs extend into the stall next door when pigs lie down. Hard concrete and metal surfaces can cause skin abrasions.

Giving birth on concrete

Over 90 percent of sows are moved into an even smaller space to give birth, still surrounded by metal bars and on a bare concrete floor. Mothers can't build a nest, as they would naturally, and can't lick or nuzzle their babies. Sows are kept in these farrowing crates until their piglets are taken away at 3-4 weeks of age.



Frustration of basic instincts

Pigs are as intelligent as dogs. Imagine the outcry if dogs were kept in bare, crowded sheds with no exercise or mental stimulation!

Pigs have a strong instinct to manipulate objects with their snout and in the wild spend many hours a day rooting in the ground. They are very social animals and form close relationships in small family groups. Sows collect materials and build large nests in which to give birth to their piglets. The piglets are naturally active and playful.

In a concrete and metal environment all of these natural behaviours are frustrated and pigs develop neurotic behaviour. Sows chew bars or repetitively wave their heads back and forth. Piglets bite each other's tails.

Mutilations without pain relief

Surgical procedures are carried out on piglets without any pain relief. Teeth are clipped, tails are cut off and notches are cut out of the ear, all of which cause pain and would not be allowed on a dog or cat. Males are castrated, again without any pain relief.



Other countries are ahead of Australia

In all countries of the European Union it will be illegal after 2013 to keep sows in stalls, except for the first 4 weeks of pregnancy. Individual countries have already banned sow stalls: Sweden (1994), the UK (1999), Finland (2006), Switzerland (2007), the Netherlands (2007). Sow stalls will be banned in New Zealand after 2015, except for the first 4 weeks of pregnancy.

Alternative ways of keeping pigs

A few farmers keep pigs more humanely. Some sows are kept in groups in straw pens or in paddocks with straw-bedded huts for shelter. Some piglets are kept in clear span shelters, long domes that are lined with straw. These conditions allow pigs to interact with each other, to exercise, to manipulate material with their snout and to explore. Sows provided with straw can make nests for their babies. As a result of increased exercise and a straw covered floor, there is much less lameness and abnormal behaviour.