



FAWC, Area 5a, 9 Millbank, c/o Nobel House  
17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR  
Tel: 020 7238 5016 Fax: 020 7238 3169

To: Those on the enclosed circulation list

27 February 2009

Dear Sir/Madam

### **FAWC Opinion on mutilations and environmental enrichment for growing pigs**

The Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) is conducting a study over the next year leading up to an Opinion on mutilations of growing pigs and linkage to environmental enrichment. Breeding pigs will be the subject of separate consideration. The detailed work will be carried out by the Pigs, Poultry and Fish Standing Committee, chaired by Professor Mike Appleby.

Mutilations are still used widely in the pig industry. This Opinion will assess the need for, and welfare implications of, tail docking, teeth clipping, castration and identification techniques such as ear clipping, ear tagging, tattooing and slap marking in growing pigs. We will consider how and whether environmental enrichment and other management/husbandry practices can reduce the need for mutilations. The Opinion will also cover opportunities for pain relief.

Approximately 9 million piglets are born in the UK each year. The great majority experience teeth clipping and tail docking. Very few male piglets are castrated in the UK, but the majority of imported pigmeat will currently include meat from castrated males. Some mutilations are carried out to reduce risk of other welfare problems, while others are done for management reasons. The provision of environmental enrichment may reduce the risk of adverse behaviours, and meet a behavioural need for exploration/manipulatory activities.

For each of the mutilations considered we need to ask the questions:

- Whether they need to be done at all?
- What are the alternatives?
- If they need to be done, is there a better way?
- What can be done to minimise pain and distress experienced?
- To what extent is provision of environmental enrichment effective in preventing the need for mutilations?
- What other management and husbandry practices can reduce the need for mutilations?

If you have comments to offer about the welfare implications of mutilations for growing pigs and the effect of environmental enrichment, please send them to me at the FAWC Secretariat, Area 5A, 9 Millbank, c/o Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (e-mail: [richard.aram@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:richard.aram@defra.gsi.gov.uk)) **by 30 April 2009**.

In addition to this consultation exercise, we may write to some organisations with specific questions as work progresses. Some may also be invited to discussions with the Group. Normally FAWC reports list the names of the organisations that gave evidence. Should you prefer to be excluded from the list, please let us know when you reply.

If you believe there are any important omissions from the list of consultees, I should be obliged if you would let me have the name and address of an appropriate contact.

Further information on the role of FAWC is on our website [www.fawc.org.uk](http://www.fawc.org.uk)

Yours faithfully

Richard Aram  
FAWC Secretariat

ADAS (Pig Group)  
Advisory Committee on Organic Standards  
Advocates for Animals  
Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board  
Aldi Stores  
All Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare  
Animal Aid  
Animal Health Trust  
Animal Rights Law Centre  
ASDA Group Plc  
Askham Bryan College  
Associated British Foods  
Association of Scottish Colleges  
Assured British Meat  
Assured Food Standards  
AWSELVA  
Babraham Institute  
Barony College  
Berkshire College of Agriculture  
Bicton College of Agriculture  
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)  
Bishop Burton College  
Bridgewater College  
British Institute of Agricultural Consultants  
British Pig Association  
British Pig Executive  
British Retail Consortium  
British Society of Animal Science (BSAS)  
British Veterinary Association (BVA)  
British Pig Veterinary Society  
Budgen Stores Ltd  
Cambridgeshire College of Agriculture  
Carmarthenshire College  
Coleg Powys  
Companion Animal Welfare Council  
Compassion in World Farming  
Conservative Animal Welfare Group  
Consumers Association  
Consumers in Europe Group  
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities  
Co-operative Group (CWS) Ltd  
Defra  
Duchy College  
English Nature  
Eurepgap  
Eurogroup for Animal Welfare  
Farm Animal Care Trust  
Farm Animal Initiative  
Farm Animal Welfare Network (FAWN)  
Farm Assured Welsh Livestock  
Farmers' Union of Wales  
Federation of Veterinarians in Europe  
Food and Drink Federation  
Food Aware  
Food Standards Agency  
Freedom Food Ltd  
Hannah Research Institute  
Harper Adams University College  
Institute for Animal Health

Institute of Biology  
Institute of Food Research  
Institute of Grocery Distribution  
Institute of Trading Standards Administration  
International Fund of Animal Welfare (IFAW)  
J Sainsbury plc  
John Lewis plc  
LACORS  
Lantra  
Linking Environment and Farming  
Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (MLURI)  
Marks & Spencer plc  
Meat Hygiene Service  
Middlesex University  
National Animal Health & Welfare Panel  
National Assembly for Wales, Environment, Countryside and Planning Department  
National Association of Agricultural Contractors  
National Association of Local Councils  
National Consumer Council  
National Consumer Federation  
National Council of Women of Great Britain  
National Farmers Union  
National Farmers' Union of Scotland  
National Farmers' Union (Wales)  
National Federation of Meat & Food Traders  
National Federation of Women's Institutes  
National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs  
National Office of Animal Health Ltd (NOAH)  
National Pig Association  
National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC)  
Nuffield Council on Bioethics  
Organic Farmers and Growers  
Organic Food Federation  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
Quality Meat Scotland  
Queens University of Belfast  
Roslin Institute (Edinburgh)  
Rowett Research Institute  
Royal Agricultural College  
Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE)  
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons  
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)  
Royal Veterinary College  
Safeway Stores plc  
Scottish Agricultural College  
Scottish Centre for Animal Welfare Science  
Scottish Consumers Council  
Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
SEERAD  
Soil Association  
Somerset Stores Ltd  
Sparsholt College  
SUSTAIN - The Alliance for Better Food & Farming  
Tenant Farmers Association  
Tesco Stores Ltd  
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare  
University of Aberdeen  
University of Birmingham  
University of Bristol  
University of Cambridge

University of Edinburgh  
University of Exeter  
University of Glasgow  
University of Leeds  
University of Liverpool  
University of Newcastle upon Tyne  
University of Nottingham  
University of Oxford  
University of Plymouth  
University of Reading  
University of Stirling  
University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Bangor  
Vegetarian Economy & Green Agriculture (VEGA) Research  
Veterinary Laboratories Agency  
Veterinary Medicines Directorate  
WM Morrison Supermarkets Ltd  
Waitrose Ltd  
Welsh Consumer Council  
Welsh Local Government Association  
Women's Food & Farming Union  
World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)  
Wye College