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AUSTRALIAN PIG FARMING: THE INSIDE STORY

SOW STALLS

*Sows have a strong natural instinct to build nests before giving birth.

*In factory farms sows may be repeatedly confined to barren sow stalls where they are unable to turn around for the duration of their 16 week pregnancies.

FARROWING CRATES

*Sows are moved to farrowing crates, which are smaller than sow stalls, just before giving birth.

*Sows have a natural urge to nurture their young but when confined to a crate which only allows them to stand up, lie down and take one step forward they are unable to attend to the needs of their babies.

*Sows remain in the crates until their piglets are old enough to be weaned at which stage the sows are removed and reimpregnated and the process begins again.

SOW HEALTH

*After enduring numerous pregnancies and continual confinement sows can suffer from lameness, prolapsed rectums and vaginas, sores from constantly lying on hard surfaces, as well as malnutrition from restricted feeding.

*Sows are usually sent to slaughter after 2-3 years of breeding as their bodies are unable to cope with the pressures that continual pregnancies place on them.

TEETH CLIPPING & TAIL CLIPPING

*Despite their capacity to suffer being the same, piglets are subjected to numerous painful procedures that would be illegal if performed on cats or dogs.

*Their teeth are clipped, tails docked and male piglets are routinely castrated all without anaesthetic.

*These procedures are painful and traumatic for both piglets and their mothers, who are forced to observe their babies in pain but are unable to respond to their cries.

TRANSPORT & HANDLING

*Pigs are stressed by transport and handling and can be terrified by the sight, sound and smell of other pigs being stunned and slaughtered while they await the same fate.

INTELLIGENCE

*Studies have revealed that pigs have a long memory and are able to focus on specific tasks even better than some primates.

*Sows confined to crates can become bored by lack of stimulation and pigs kept in sheds with thousands of other pigs can become aggressive due the stressful environment.

