



## BREEDING

Female pigs, known as sows, are impregnated and give birth multiple times a year.

Sows are confined to mating stalls for up to a week, while they are artificially inseminated by workers. Workers use boars and manual stimulation to excite the sows and encourage sexual arousal.

They then insert a straw filled with boar semen, which is obtained by workers masturbating boars, into the sow's vagina.

The act of artificial insemination is only legal because of an exemption which allows for the sexual penetration of an animal, if done for the purpose of animal farming.



## FARROWING

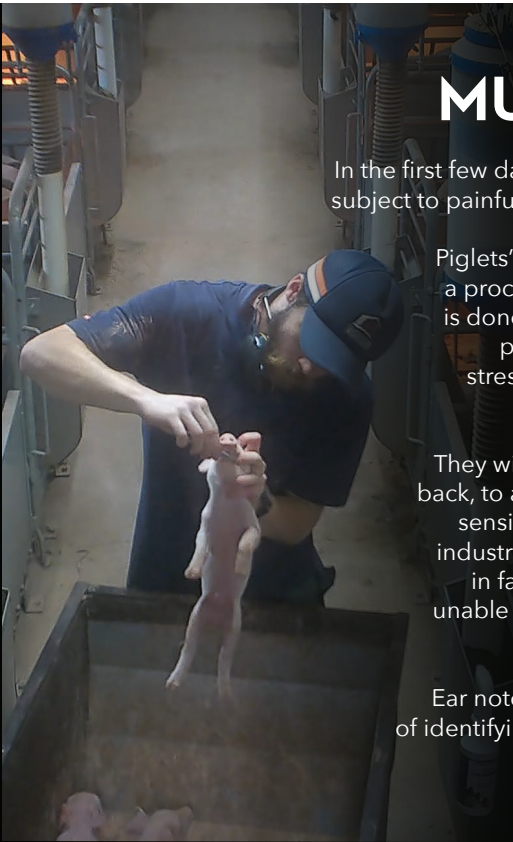
A week before they give birth, sows are moved to farrowing crates where they will remain for six weeks.

Unable to stretch or turn around, these mothers spend most of their time lying on their side as their piglets feed.

Many sows develop painful, infected pressure sores from lying on the hard, filthy floor.

Due to large litter sizes, stress and trauma, sows often give birth to stillborn babies or piglets who are too weak to survive.

These runt piglets are preyed on by cats, rats, maggots and other piglets.



## MUTILATIONS

In the first few days of their lives, piglets will be subject to painful mutilation without pain relief.

Piglets' tails are cut off with scissors in a process known as tail docking. This is done to reduce tail biting between piglets, which occurs due to the stressful, boring, and overcrowded conditions they are kept in.

They will also have their teeth clipped back, to avoid damaging their mother's sensitive teats and udder. In the pig industry, 95% of mother pigs are kept in farrowing crates, where they are unable to turn around, let alone move away from their piglets.

Ear notching is carried out as a means of identifying piglets and involves cutting out pieces of piglets' ears.



## SOW STALLS

Mother pigs spend much of their lives confined to small cages. The Australian pig meat industry pledged to phase out sow stalls by 2017, however a 2022 investigation confirmed they are still in widespread use.

Even without sow stalls, mother pigs will spend the majority of their lives in confinement. Piggeries can be certified as 'sow stall free' even if they confine sows to mating stalls and farrowing crates for weeks at a time.

When not confined to these narrow stalls, sows are kept in crowded group housing. Many of these pens have no drainage meaning that sows are forced to sleep and eat in a river of their own waste.



## WEANERS & GROWERS

At 3-5 weeks old, piglets are weaned off their mothers' milk and begin to be fattened for slaughter.

Over 90% of pigs in Australia spend their entire lives indoors in intensive factory farms. These areas are breeding grounds for cats, rats and flies and many pigs suffer from painful injuries and infected wounds.

At ten weeks old, the pigs will move to larger grower pens. They will live in these filthy pens until they are roughly six months old when they are transported to the slaughterhouse.

Breeding sows are generally killed at only three years old.



## EUTHANASIA

Sick or injured piglets are legally allowed to be euthanised using blunt force trauma.

The process may be carried out with a "hammer or other suitable solid heavy object".

More commonly, workers will grab the piglet and smash their heads against the concrete floor.

Investigations have revealed that, despite the impact, piglets can remain conscious and move about for many minutes as they die.



## SLAUGHTER

The most common method used to stun pigs in Australia is a CO<sub>2</sub> gas chamber, deemed the most 'humane' method when dealing with large numbers of pigs.

Other forms include stunning using electricity, captive bolt pistols, and firearms.

Captive bolt pistols and firearms have frequently been seen to be ineffective at rendering pigs unconscious, due to the thickness of pigs' skulls.

Electrical stunning is not permanent, meaning that the animal can regain consciousness during slaughter.

Pigs' throats are then cut and they are submerged in scalding water. Some pigs reach this stage fully conscious, drowning in unimaginable agony.

## GAS CHAMBERS

All major pig slaughterhouses in Australia now use carbon dioxide gas chambers as a means of rendering pigs unconscious before cutting their throats.

The process involves forcing pigs into gondola cages which are then lowered into the pit of the chamber, where high concentrations of the excruciating toxic gas cause them to suffocate.

The pigs writhe and gasp for air, scream in fear and pain, and frantically attempt to escape the cage.

Learn more at  
[BanGasChambers.com.au](http://BanGasChambers.com.au)

## WHAT WE WANT

- Mandatory, publicly accessible CCTV in all Victorian farms and slaughterhouses.
- Ban the use of sow and farrowing crates in Victorian piggeries.
- Ban carbon dioxide gas chambers in Victorian pig slaughterhouses.
- Update existing bestiality laws to recognise all sexual exploitation of animals as illegal.
- Support farmers to transition out of the pig meat industry and into kinder alternatives.

## SEE IT FOR YOURSELF

Using the latest in 360 camera technology, we've created groundbreaking interactive virtual tours of major Australian pig farms and slaughterhouses.

Go to [farmtransparency.org/tours](http://farmtransparency.org/tours) to experience for yourself what it's like for animals behind closed doors, in highly secretive farms and facilities where no members of the public are supposed to see.

### Are you ready to take action?



Throughout history, change has happened when ordinary people have come together to demand it. Right now, animals are suffering and dying for no better reason than money, tradition and convenience... but we have the power to stop it.



# PRICE OF PORK

## FROM BIRTH TO SLAUGHTER



[farmtransparency.org](http://farmtransparency.org)