

Right From the Start

Swine

Characteristics

- Strong nose and snout
- Strong jaw and teeth
- Low center of gravity
- A lot of weight on small feet
- Tend to fight with other pigs
- Can be aggressive
- Easily frightened
- Natural rooters

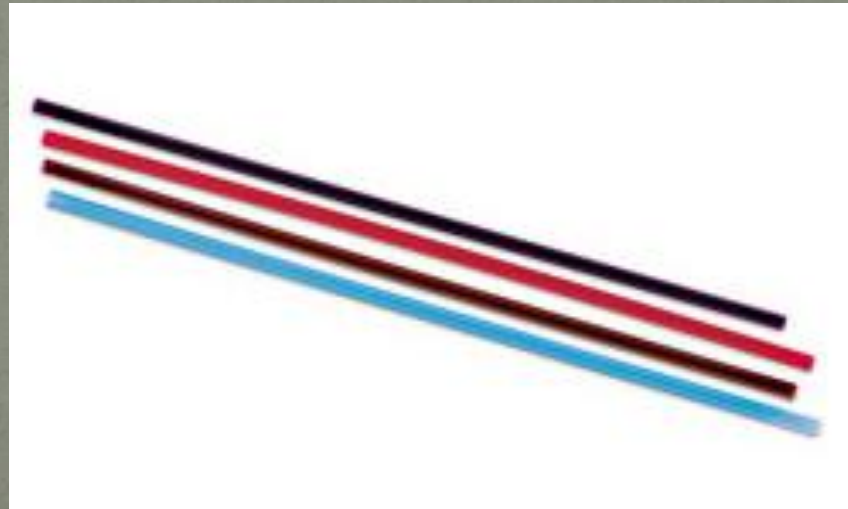
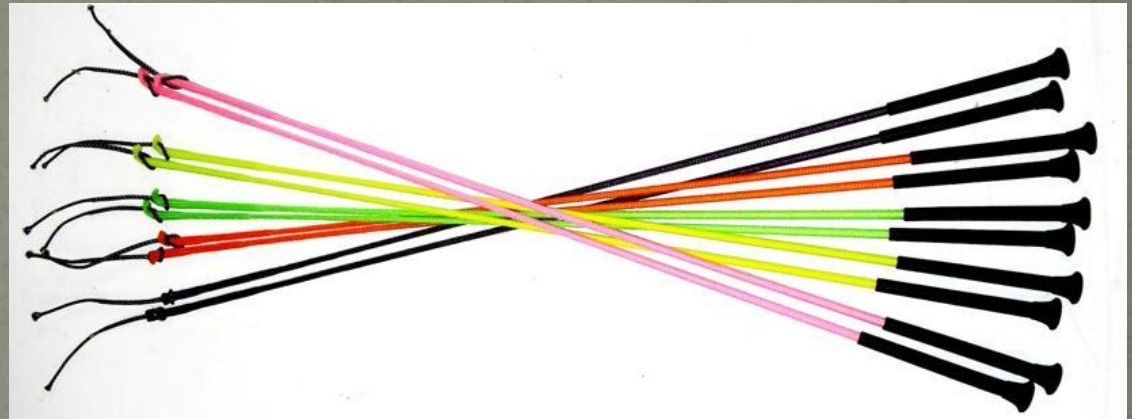


Characteristics

- Smell well
- Poor vision clarity
- Wide field of vision
- Sensitive to changes in light
- Very good memory
- Intelligent
- Creatures of habit
- Do not sweat or cool themselves

Equipment

- Steering device
 - Whip
 - Pipe



Equipment cont.

- Sorting board



Grooming

- Calming experience for the animal
- All handlers should groom from the same side of the animal
 - Allow the animal to have an escape route



Acclimatization

- People
- Environments
- Sounds
- Lights
- Trailers
- Routes



Health

- Wash your hands after handling
- Exhibitors should not perform injections
 - Pigs have excellent memories
- Sick animals and/or exhibitors should not go to the show
 - Zoonosis- an infectious disease that can be passed from animals to humans

Common Injuries

- Slips/falls
- Bruises, cuts, and scrapes
- Muscle and/or back pain



Injury Prevention

- Wear closed-toe shoes or boots with non-slip soles
- Handlers should always be supervised
- Approach pigs calmly and slowly from the front
- Work with animals frequently
- Keep the practice area clear of debris to reduce tripping/slipping hazards
- Small children are perceived as predators



The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education

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