

Right From The Start | Outline

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



Equipment

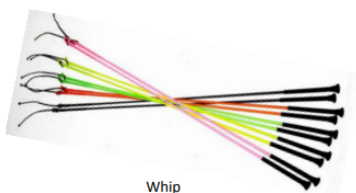
- Steering device (whip or pipe)
- Sorting panel
- Grooming tools



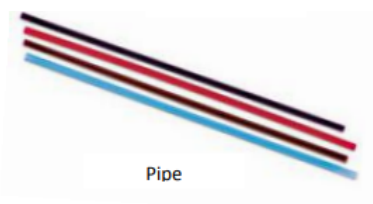
Sorting Board

Grooming

- Grooming can be a calming exercise for the pig.
- All handlers should groom from the same side of the animal.
- Always leave the animal an escape route.



Whip



Pipe

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Acclimatization

- Acclimation and exposure to different people, places, sounds and images will help desensitize an animal and make it less likely to spook.
- Acclimatize animals to people of different ages, sizes and genders. Children have faster, sharper motions than adults and can be perceived as predators, like wolves and coyotes, due to their size.
- Expose animals to different environments, i.e. barns, pastures, pens, wash racks, etc.
- Play music around the animal to acclimate it to different sounds. There will be many different sounds at a fair that could frighten the animal if it is un-acclimatized.
- Take animals to small shows first.
- Expose the animal to areas of bright and dim lighting. Use flash photography around the animal.
- Practice entering and exiting the trailer.
- Walk pigs through different routes to combat their tendency to be creatures of habit.

Health

- Wash your hands after handling animals.
- Exhibitors should not perform injections on their own animals.
- 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 from Pigs

- Slips and trips
- Bruises, cuts and scrapes
- Muscle strain
- Back strain

Injury Prevention

- Wear closed-toe shoes or boots with non-slip soles.
- Exhibitors should always be supervised.
- Approach pigs calmly and slowly from the front.
- Exhibitor should work with their animal frequently.
- Keep the practice area clear of debris to reduce tripping/slipping hazards.

