Tail Biting in Pigs—Aetiology, Risk Factors and Solutions

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Tail biting in pigs is a damaging behaviour with a multifactorial background, and with widespread implications for both animal welfare and production. We do not understand the underlying motivation for tail biting, nor do we know how to fully solve the problem on-farm. Consequently, the vast majority of pigs in the world are tail docked to reduce the adverse effects of tail biting, even though this procedure does not abolish the behaviour.

Docking is not only painful for the pig, but also masks underlying welfare problems on farms. Due to a general trend towards higher welfare standards in animal production worldwide, there is a need for further information on how to facilitate an increase in the production of long-tailed pigs in the future. We invite papers from different scientific disciplines and with different approaches, on topics such as the aetiology of tail-biting behaviour; novel approaches to identifying risk factors for tail biting; understanding the consequences of tail biting and docking; and papers including socio-economical or ethical considerations.

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Special issue

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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