





SoLiv 2.0





Long Live the Sows








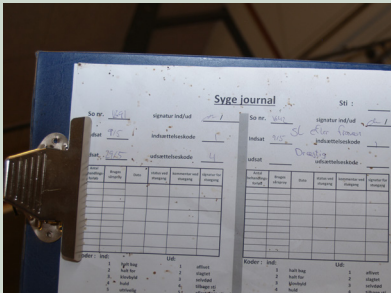
Hospital pens for sows

Sows in gestation pens that are sick, injured or not thriving must be transferred to a hospital pen. The following guidelines can be used to ensure a speedy recovery of the sows in these pens:

Point of focus	Explanation and recommendations
Number of hospital-pen spaces	<p>Statutory requirements (Denmark): A sufficient number of hospital pens must be available, and at least one space in a hospital pen must always be available for sick or injured pigs.</p> <p>When a hospital pen becomes fully occupied, the producer must make at least one additional hospital-pen space available for use.</p> <p>Hospital-pen spaces must account for at least 2.5% of the number of untethered gestating sows.</p>
	<p>Recommended number of hospital-pen spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3–5%, if gestation pens are equipped with feeding/resting stalls or electronic sow feeding.• 10%, if a gestation unit is equipped with floor feeding or a liquid feeding system where the sows compete for feed.
Positioning of hospital pens	<p>Most sows in a hospital pen come from the gestation unit and typically have leg and/or hoof problems. Therefore, it must be easy for staff to transfer sows to a hospital pen.</p> <p>Recommended placement of hospital pens: Hospital pens should be placed within the gestation pens or in the centre of the gestation unit.</p> <div><p>Row of hospital pens in the centre of the gestation unit (electronic sow feeding)</p><p>Hospital pen inside the gestation pen (floor feeding)</p></div>

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No more than three sows per hospital pen	<p>Statutory requirements (Denmark): The maximum number of sows and/or gilts in a hospital pen is three, and each sow/gilt must have a freely accessible area of at least 2.8 m².</p> <p>A hospital pen for a single sow or gilt must have a freely accessible area of at least 3.5 m².</p>
Soft bedding	<p>Statutory requirements (Denmark): Soft bedding must cover two-thirds of the pens' minimum area.</p> <p>Soft bedding can be established using straw or a soft rubber mat to keep the sow/gilt from coming in direct contact with the underlying floor.</p>
Straw as soft supporting surface	<p>Recommended supporting surface in a hospital pen:</p> <p>A drained layer of loose straw ensures that the supporting surface in the hospital pen remains soft and dry and doesn't need to be removed/scraped out on an ongoing basis.</p>
The sow's water intake	<p>Deep bedding is not advisable as a thick mat generates heat, which can be detrimental in summer. In addition, the difference in height between the basin bottom (20–40 cm) and the inspection walkway, etc., would be too great for an injured animal.</p> <div>   </div> <div> <p>Establishment of drained, scattered straw bedding. The entire pen is fitted with slatted flooring. A draining floor (environmental slatted floor/slat</p> <p>Spread straw as required in the bedding on top of the drained floor. A winch-drawn cleaner should be established under the hospital pens.</p> </div>
	<div>   </div> <div> <p>A retainer board should be set up, if possible, to keep straw in the bedding.</p> <p>Any straw that falls into the manure area (foremost) should be removed on an ongoing basis.</p> </div>
Rubber mat as a soft supporting surface	<p>Rubber mats are generally not advisable, as they are rarely as soft as straw bedding.</p> <p>If a rubber mat is laid in the bedding, it must yield to the pressure of a hand or boot.</p> <p>To avoid moisture building up in the rubber mat, it must have a 3% slope towards the manure area (slatted floor). The concrete floor must either be cast with a slope or a foam/straw wedge must be inserted.</p>

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	<div data-bbox="539 152 759 443">  </div> <div data-bbox="533 454 874 517"> <p>Testing the rubber mat to ensure that it is soft.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="963 152 1355 443">  </div> <div data-bbox="957 454 1331 517"> <p>Foam wedge to give the rubber mat a slope.</p> </div>
	<div data-bbox="539 566 930 857">  </div> <div data-bbox="533 875 914 938"> <p>Lay out the rubber mat on top of the wedge.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="963 566 1355 857">  </div> <div data-bbox="957 875 1337 1001"> <p>Attach the rubber mat with 'anchors' in the slat openings. In many cases, a rail will prevent liquid from running freely down.</p> </div>
Cooling and heating	<p>The hospital pens must be designed to avoid draughts. This means that closed housing equipment must extend around the bedding at full height.</p> <p>All hospital pens must be equipped with a cooling facility and a source of heat to make it possible to regulate the pigs' body temperature.</p> <p>Recommended heating sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covering • Straw. <p>Recommended cooling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to a concrete or slatted floor • Spraying with water or pressurised cooling.
Feed and water	<p>Sows in a hospital pen must have easy access to fresh water and feed. Trough, drinking bowl, etc., must be cleaned every day.</p> <p>It must be easy for staff to monitor the sows' feed intake which is why the following is recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry feed in trough • Ad libitum in an automatic feeder is an option. <p>Sows must have access to fresh water which is why the following is recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking bowl or trough with standing water.

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Medical record for each hospital pen	<p>It is advisable to have a medical record for each hospital pen/sow, specifying the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of transfer • Date of all treatments • Reason for transfer • Medication • Strategy for the number of treatments and the specific criteria for: • Continued treatment • Culling • Slaughter.
	<div>   </div> <div> <p>Medical record for each hospital pen.</p> <p>Example of a medical record.</p> </div>