



Are you doing it right? Encourage others to check too at  
[www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs)  
 Email us your questions to  
[animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz)  
 Call us about an animal welfare issue **0800 00 83 33**

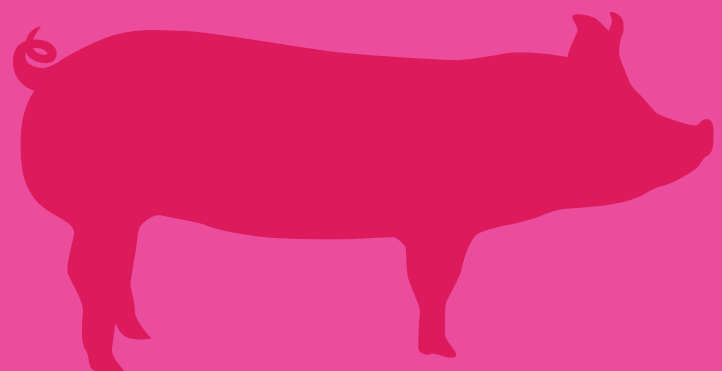
Owning animals comes with a responsibility to provide for their care and wellbeing. Take some time to find out what your animals need by checking the codes of welfare and regulations. Regulations make it easier for MPI to take action against animal mistreatment. Fines for breaching animal welfare regulations start at \$300 for individuals and go up to \$25,000 for businesses. Some breaches may also result in a criminal conviction. If an animal's welfare is seriously compromised, higher penalties under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 apply.

## Animal Welfare Matters

November 2022

## Animal Welfare Regulations

# Pigs



water.

**Sweating like a pig** – Pigs don't really sweat, but they do like to cool off in mud or under misted

**What a pigsty** – A pig's sty shouldn't be a filthy pit.

warm.

**Happy as a pig in muck** – Pigs may be happy to wallow in mud, but they also like to be dry and

true.

Many of the old sayings about pigs aren't really



**Pigs**  
 As the old saying goes...

## More information

Many of the regulations come from the codes of welfare. These set out minimum standards and recommended best practices when caring for animals. Codes that may be relevant to you include:

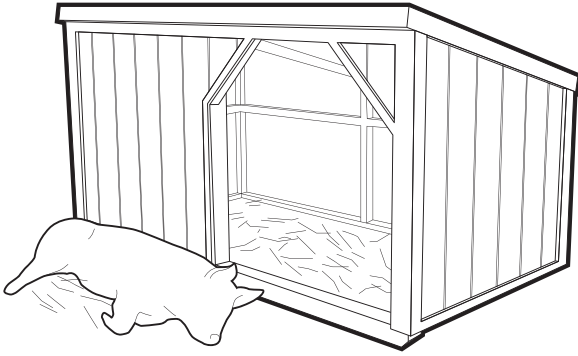
- dairy cattle
- deer
- dogs
- goats
- horses and donkeys
- llamas and alpacas
- pigs
- sheep and beef cattle
- transport within NZ

You can find the regulations, our guidance on the regulations, and the codes of welfare on our website at [www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs)



## Shelter

Happy as a pig out of muck



Your pig must have:

- ✓ a structure they can access at any time which is dry and ventilated – but not draughty – and protects them from the extremes of heat and cold
- ✓ a dry area big enough for them to stand up, lie down and turn around in easily
- ✓ their droppings and urine removed so it doesn't accumulate – either clear them away or cover with dry material.

## Space

Room to grow

Pigs like to have space. Grower pigs must have enough unobstructed space for them to lie down.

As pigs grow the space available needs to increase. Little piglets quickly grow into big pigs, in fact they can weigh 150 kg or more by 9 months old.

If you have multiple pigs then they must have enough unobstructed space for each of them to lie down. Unobstructed space should be dry and free from dung.

If you have a larger litter than expected, you will need more space.



## Painful practices

Handle with care

### Nose ringing

Nose ringing or clipping is painful.

If you need to do this it must only be done:

- ✓ if necessary to meet council requirements to prevent environmental damage
- ✓ by a competent person, using the right equipment – wire must not be used
- ✓ by placing the ring or clip through the cartilage at the top of the snout or in the tissue separating the nostrils.

### Castration

Removing testicles is painful and is not normally necessary outside of commercial piggeries.

Castration must only be done by a **veterinarian**, using pain relief.



### Docking

Docking tails is painful and if improperly done can be fatal.

Tail docking is only done in commercial piggeries where tail biting is a problem. Speak to your **veterinarian** if you think you have a problem.

### Dentistry

Extracting a pig's tooth is a veterinarian-only procedure as it can be **complicated and painful**.

Teeth cutting must be done by someone who is competent to undertake this procedure, using the right equipment. A pig's tooth must only be cut by a **veterinarian**, unless it's a needle tooth of a pig 4 days old or under, or a boar's tusk.

Speak to your **veterinarian** if you think your pig needs to have its teeth cut. Cutting needle teeth is not normally necessary outside of commercial piggeries. Tusk trimming is not an easy procedure.