

# PAWS and pig production

December 2021



ONTARIO PORK



The Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act (Bill 136) came into effect on January 1, 2020, replacing the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (OSPACA). PAWS is enforced by Animal Welfare Services (AWS). Included here is important information for pig owners.

## What does AWS do?

AWS protects animals from abuse and neglect. Abuse may include the inappropriate use of an electric prod, hitting a pig or intentionally dropping or throwing a pig. Neglect can include intentional failure to provide enough food, water or care, causing significant harm or death to animals.

## Who can AWS inspect?

Any person who owns, has custody of, or cares for an animal suspected to be in distress or neglected. As most farms are commercial entities, they are subject to inspection to determine if reasonable and generally accepted practices of agriculture animal care, management and husbandry are being observed.

## Who conducts the inspection?

Animal welfare inspectors, who are provincial government employees, can be accompanied by local police, a veterinarian and/or Ontario Pork.

Animal welfare inspectors will provide identification upon request and may present a warrant to enter a dwelling. They may also enter any place, except for a dwelling, without a warrant if there is an animal in critical distress or if the time required to obtain a warrant may result in serious injury or death to an animal. Inspection could lead to investigation and penalties.

## What is expected of you?

Respect and follow industry standards of care not limited to:

- Access to feed and water to meet pigs' needs
- Adequate environmental management (temperature, ventilation, and lighting)
- Sanitary conditions and space allowance according to production stage
- Analgesics to control pain associated to castration and tail docking procedures
- Care of sick and injured pigs
- Appropriate training and implementation for those handling, moving and restraining pigs
- Personnel training and implementation on humane euthanasia to minimize pain and distress

Industry standards are based on the *Canadian Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs*.

## If you are contacted or visited by an Animal Welfare Inspector

- Request identification and cooperate with the inspector
- Contact your herd veterinarian
- Contact Ontario Pork Manager of Industry and Member Services at 519-767-4600 ext. 1612
- Request to have your herd veterinarian and an Ontario Pork representative present for any visit or inspection

## Where can you go for more information?

- [ontario.ca/page/animal-welfare](https://ontario.ca/page/animal-welfare)
- [omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/swine/productn.html](https://omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/swine/productn.html)
- [nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/pigs#Various](https://nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/pigs#Various)
- [ontariopork.on.ca/Producers/Herd-Health-Pig-Code](https://ontariopork.on.ca/Producers/Herd-Health-Pig-Code)