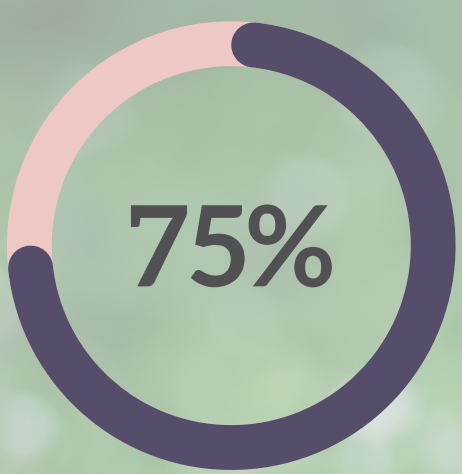
Veterinarians Oppose the EATS ACT

OUR HONOR

Confining mother pigs to gestation crates could facilitate the next pandemic.



75% of emerging zoonotic diseases come from animals.

Intensive confinement induces a physiological stress response in sows, not only impairing their resistance to disease, but also that of their piglets, making transmission of disease among pigs even more likely.

—BRIEF OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION, INFECTIOUS DISEASES SOCIETY OF AMERICA AND CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY ET AL.

Two months after it was first detected in California in April 2009, the H1N1 influenza virus was declared a worldwide pandemic.

H1N1 Worldwide:
60 million cases
575,000 deaths

Intensive confinement facilitates the transmission and mutation of pathogens into more virulent forms that can be transmitted to sicken or even kill humans.

Stress in intensively confined sows increases the growth and virulence of the pathogens pigs commonly carry and stimulates the growth of pathogens such as Campylobacter, Salmonella, Yersinia, Listeria, and Staphylococcus aureus.

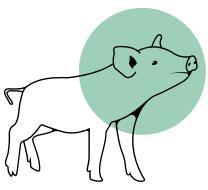
H1N1 USA:
274,000 hospitalizations
12,000 deaths

The stress of intensive confinement on mother pigs weakens their immune function and that of their piglets increases the growth and virulence of pathogens.

The intensive confinement of sows is not just a significant risk to food safety; it creates more opportunity for the transmission of disease between confined sows, and facilitates the mutation of pathogens through a process called “amplification.”

This can lead to more virulent diseases and more diseases, including antibiotic-resistant bacteria, that are transmissible to humans.

The stress of confinement increases the excretion of pathogens in their waste, facilitating the transmission of pathogens from the mothers to their piglets and then into the pork products.



The piglets of group-housed sows “had better resistance and resilience, which showed that these piglets were healthier” and exposed to fewer pathogens than those of crated sows.

“In 2020, the annual number of foodborne illnesses in the U.S. attributable to pork consumption had increased to **787,000**, with the largest share attributable to pork—even more than beef or chicken.”

- Robert L. Scharff, Food Attribution and Economic Cost Estimates for Meat- and Poultry-Related Illnesses, 83 J. FOOD PROTECTION 959, 964 (2020)

"...Confinement of sows in gestation crates weakens the immune function of the sows and their piglets destined for slaughter...Once infected, the piglets often do not show symptoms of illness...As a result, the intensive confinement of sows threatens the safety of pork products sold in U.S. grocery stores..."

—BRIEF OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION, INFECTIOUS DISEASES SOCIETY OF AMERICA AND CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY ET AL.

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