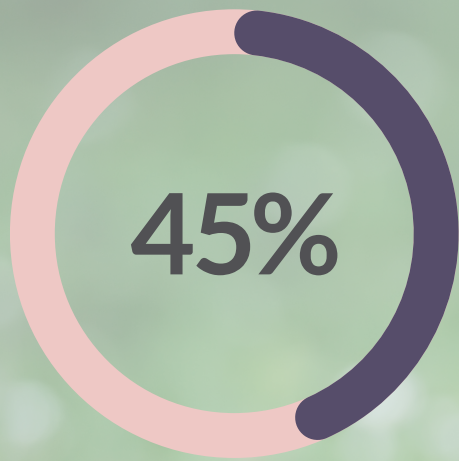


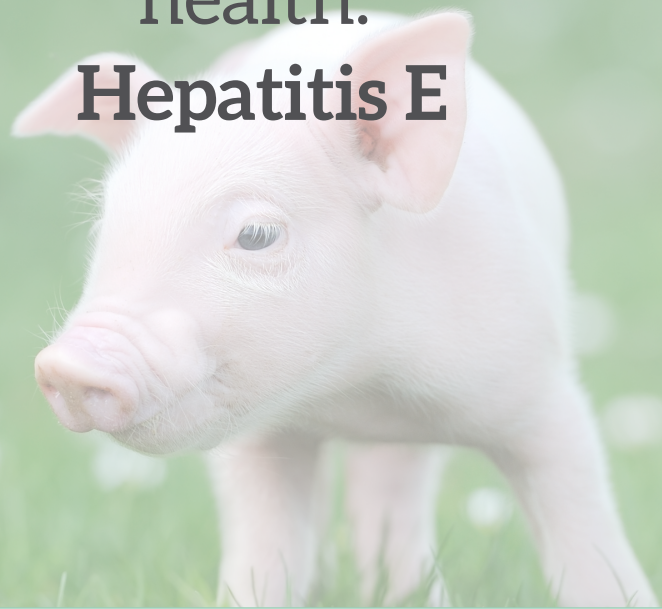
# Veterinarians Oppose the EATS ACT



## Confining mother pigs to gestation crates threatens public health: **Hepatitis E**



**In California, 45% of retail pig liver samples collected in 2018 were positive for hepatitis E virus.**



**Hepatitis E can cause chronic infections, acute liver failure, and death in immunocompromised or pregnant humans.**

[HEPATITIS E, WHO](#)

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.



**A study following piglets infected with hepatitis E found that 23% still carried the virus at slaughter.**

Products derived from infected pigs can reach the food supply.



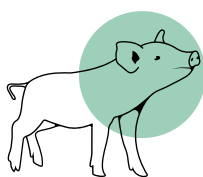
**U.S. states conducted between 2017 and 2019, detected hepatitis E virus in 6.3% of blood samples**

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.**

Pregnant sows randomly assigned to gestation crates for the duration of their pregnancies had consistently higher levels of stress hormones in their blood than group-housed sows, and so did their piglets.



**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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