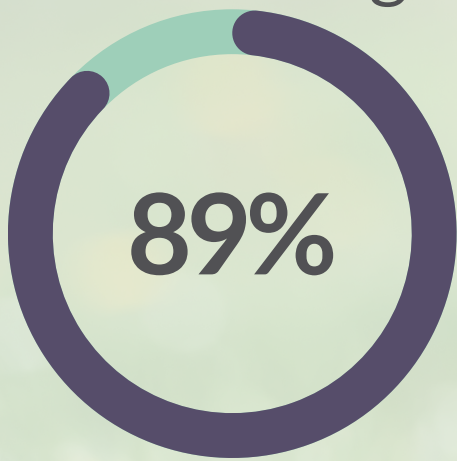


Veterinarians Oppose the EATS ACT



Confining mother pigs to gestation crates threatens public health: Campylobacter



In 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) reported that 89% of studied pork production facilities administered **medically-important antibiotics and other antimicrobial drugs in feed.**



"...Confinement of sows in gestation crates weakens the immune function of the sows and their piglets destined for slaughter. This facilitates the spread of disease from sows to their piglets. Once infected, the piglets often do not show symptoms of illness, and thus become undetected vectors of disease as they are transported to various stages of the pork production process and, ultimately, to slaughter. 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

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.



Medically important antibiotics sold in the U.S. are for pork production.
-- 2018 [report](#)

Campylobacter is a leading cause of human bacterial gastroenteritis, infection can also lead to blood and brain infections, joint inflammation, paralysis, and even death.

37,000

Annual Campylobacter infections in the US attributable to contaminated pork.

Piglets become infected within the first few hours of birth while they are still with their mothers, and most remain carriers until slaughter.



Piglets are infected with Campylobacter the day they are born.

Sows confined to gestation crates are more likely to excrete Campylobacter in their waste.



Campylobacter on commercial pork chops found to be resistant to at least one medically important antibiotic.



"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)

**In the United States, 2.9 million illnesses annually are attributed to contaminated meat and poultry.
Pork is responsible for the greatest number of illnesses.**

For more information, visit www.ourhonor.org
email: info@ourhonor.org