



Why handling matters

How can good pig handling make the hard job of on farm killing easier?

(WOAH Chapter 7.6)

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Presentation covers

PART 1: Short Bite Issue

Why pig handling is a “short bite” issue?

Why Pig Handling Matters?

How Good Pig Handling Makes On-Farm Killing Easier

Importance to Pig Welfare in Cambodia

Recommendations

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Overview of Training Completed

Reflection on the Training

Plans for Future Training

Key Take-Home Messages



PART 1 – Short Bite Issue



Why pig handling is a “short bite” issue

- Pig handling occurs:
 - During daily management
 - During disease outbreaks
 - Before on-farm killing or emergency depopulation





Why pig handling is a “short bite” issue

- Poor handling causes:
 - Fear
 - pain
 - Distress
 - Increased risk of injury to pigs and people
 - Poor welfare outcomes, especially at the time of killing





Why Handling Matters (Animal Welfare Perspective)

- According to WOAH Chapter 7.6,
 - good animal welfare requires minimizing:
 - Pain
 - Fear
 - Distress
 - Avoidable suffering





Why Handling Matters (Animal Welfare Perspective)



- Effects of poor handling in pigs
 - Pig are:
 - Highly intelligent
 - Easily stressed
 - Sensitive to noise, rough handling, and unfamiliar environments
 - Poor handling leads to:
 - Vocalization (squealing)
 - Slipping and falling
 - Aggression or panic
 - Increased resistance during restraint

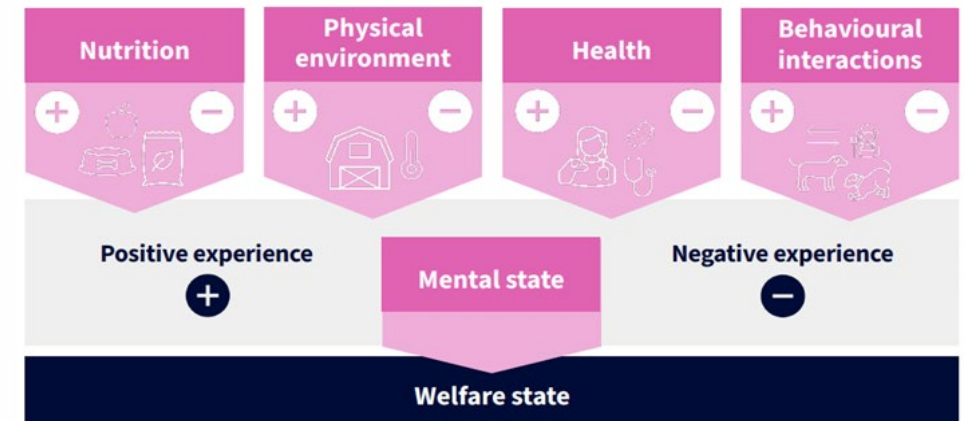


How Good Pig Handling Makes On-Farm Killing Easier (WOAH Ch. 7.6)

WOAH Chapter 7.6 emphasizes:

- Animals should be handled calmly and competently
- Stress before killing should be minimized
- Personnel should be trained and confident

The Five Domains Model
In an emergency disease situation





How Good Pig Handling Makes On-Farm Killing Easier (WOAH Ch. 7.6)

Good handling improves killing by:

- Reducing stress and fear
 - Calm pigs are easier to restrain
 - Less struggling → more accurate stunning/killing
- Improving effectiveness of killing methods
 - Correct positioning for:
 - Mechanical stunning
 - Electrical stunning
 - Lethal injection
- Protecting human safety
 - Calm pigs: fewer bites, slips, and injuries
 - Reduced risk during disease control operations
- Reducing time and repetition
 - Less need to repeat procedures
 - Faster loss of consciousness
 - Better compliance with WOAH standards





Importance to Pig Welfare in Cambodia

Local context

- Pig production often involves:
 - Smallholders
 - Limited facilities
 - Mixed-age animals
- Disease outbreaks (e.g. **ASF**) require:
 - Emergency on-farm killing
 - Rapid response under stressful conditions





Importance to Pig Welfare in Cambodia

- **Welfare risks observed**

- Rough handling using:
 - Sticks
 - Shouting
 - Dragging pigs by legs or ears
- Lack of trained staff during emergencies
- Inadequate restraint facilities

- **Welfare consequences**

- Severe fear and distress
- Poor public perception of animal disease control
- Increased suffering at the time of killing





Evidence-Based Recommendations

Based on WOAAH Chapter 7.6 and animal welfare science:

- **Practical recommendations**
 - Training in low-stress pig handling
 - Understanding pig behavior
 - Use of boards instead of force
- **Calm movement and restraint**
 - Avoid shouting and hitting
 - Allow pigs time to move





Evidence-Based Recommendations

Based on WOAHA Chapter 7.6 and animal welfare science:

- **Appropriate equipment**
 - Non-slip floors
 - Proper stunning/killing tools
- **Preparedness for outbreaks**
 - Pre-trained teams
 - Clear SOPs





PART 2 – Hot Topic: Training Experience

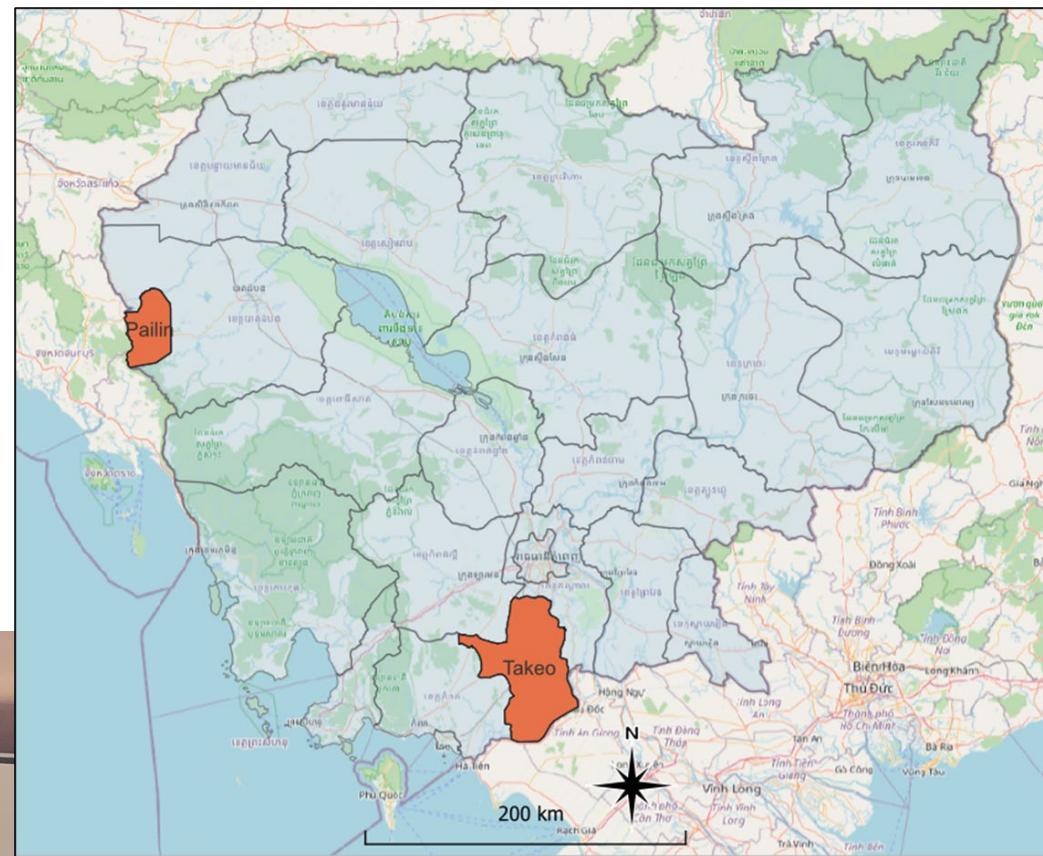


Overview of Training Completed

From 8-15 Oct 2025,
Humane Killing for Disease
Control in Laos PDR

From 17-19 Nov 2025, joint
training in Pailin province
(20 participants: 10
VAHWs, 10 Vets).

From 21-23 Oct 2025, Joint
training with CABI project
in Takeo province (55
participants: 40 farmers,
10 VAHWs and 5 vets)





Overview of Training Completed



គោលការណ៍ណែនាំ
សម្រាប់បង្ការ និងគ្រប់គ្រងជំងឺរបេស្តូផ្រេកអេហ្វ្រិក (ASF)
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**ការពិនិត្យតាមដាន និងការឃ្លាំមើលជំងឺ
បេស្តូផ្រេកអេហ្វ្រិក**



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**ការអនុវត្តខ្សែសង្វាក់ផ្គត់ផ្គង់ស្តុក
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**ការពិបាក និងការកំណត់ចោលជ្រូកជីវ
ក្នុងករណីផ្ទុះជំងឺបេស្តូផ្រេកអេហ្វ្រិក**



Training focus

- Pig handling and welfare during:
 - Disease outbreak response
 - On-farm killing
- Alignment with:
 - WOAHA standards
 - Biosecurity and biosafety principles



Overview of Training Completed

Who was trained

- Government veterinary staff
- Field animal health workers
- Support staff involved in depopulation

Good training practices used

- Practical demonstrations
- Real-life case examples
- Clear SOPs and checklists
- Adult-learning approach (discussion + practice)





Overview of Training Completed

Quantifiable outcomes

- Improved handling behavior
- Reduced handling time
- Fewer animal injuries
- Better compliance with SOPs



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Reflection on the Training

Challenges

- Limited time during outbreaks
- Variable skill levels among trainees
- Stressful field conditions
- Limited equipment in rural areas

What worked well

- Hands-on demonstrations
- Simple, practical messages
- Linking welfare to human safety
- Using local language and examples

What I would do differently

- More refresher training
- Shorter, repeated sessions
- More focus on:
 - Handling before killing
 - Stress recognition in pigs





Plans for Future Training

Future priorities

- Regular refresher courses
- Integration of handling into:
 - Emergency preparedness plans
 - ASF response training
- Development of:
 - Simple illustrated SOPs
 - Field-ready training materials

Long-term goal

- Build a competent, confident workforce
- Ensure humane, efficient on-farm killing
- Improve animal welfare and public trust





Key Take-Home Messages

- Handling matters because it directly affects animal welfare
- Good pig handling makes on-farm killing:
 - Easier
 - Faster
 - More humane
- WOAHA Chapter 7.6 provides clear guidance
- Training is essential for sustainable improvement





Thank you



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