

Update on Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop on Animal Welfare and Pig Production Systems (Chapter 7.13)

Dr Jessalyn Taylor

Research Assistant
Animal Welfare Science Centre, The University of
Melbourne

On behalf of trainers A/Prof Lauren Hemsworth
and Bronwyn Stevens

**Regional Animal Welfare Training Conference
25 - 26 February 2026 Vang Vieng, Lao PDR**



Presentation covers

ToT overview

ToT content

Benefits and challenges





ToT overview

Da Nang, Vietnam, 29 October to 5 November 2025.

Session 1: Technical concepts

- i. comprehend relevant scientific/technical information;
- ii. understand animal welfare, animal behaviour and its use in handling; and the welfare considerations involved in pig husbandry procedures;
- iii. be able to advise on best practices in pig housing and management for good animal welfare; and
- iv. be able to advise on planning and animal welfare monitoring needs.

Session 2: Pedagogical content





Day 1 summary

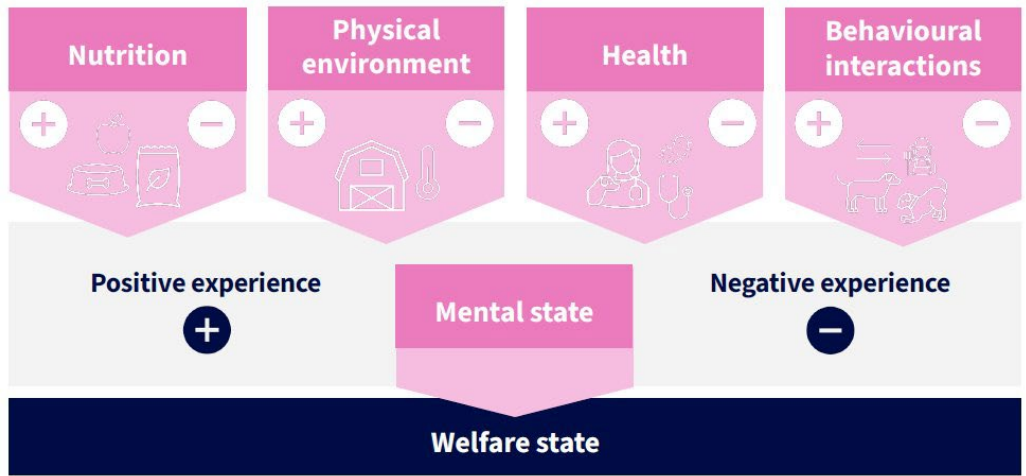
Topics: Animal welfare, pig behaviour, human attitudes and behaviour

Articles covered: 7.13.4 Criteria (or measurables) for the welfare of pigs, 7.13.7 Handling and inspection



Animal welfare = the state of the animal

Good animal welfare includes positive experiences, not just the absence of negative

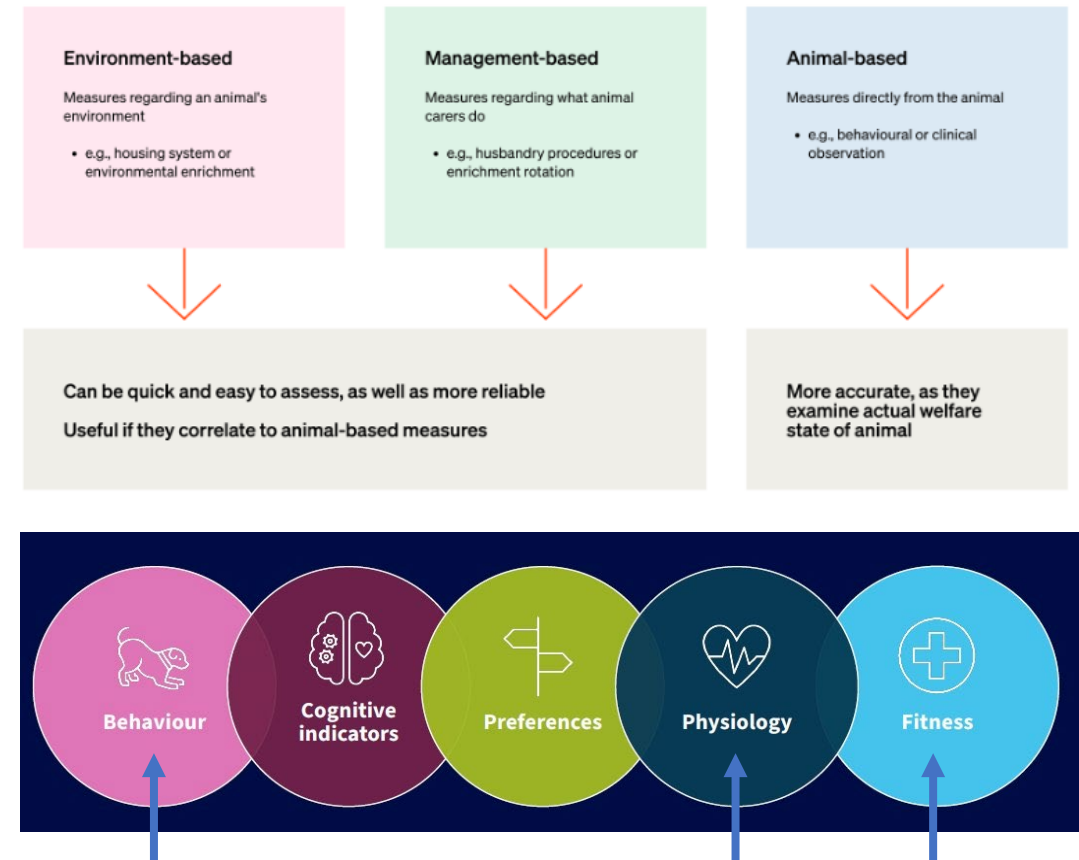
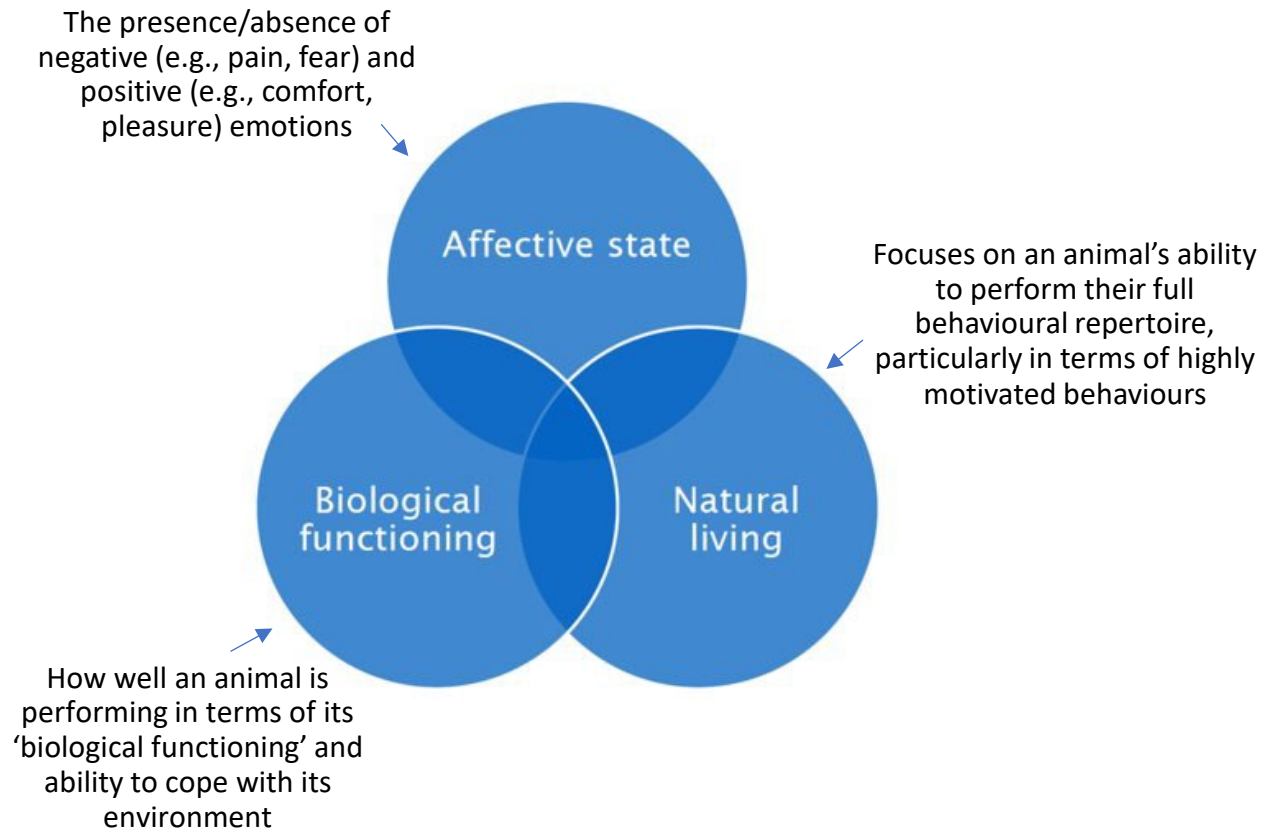




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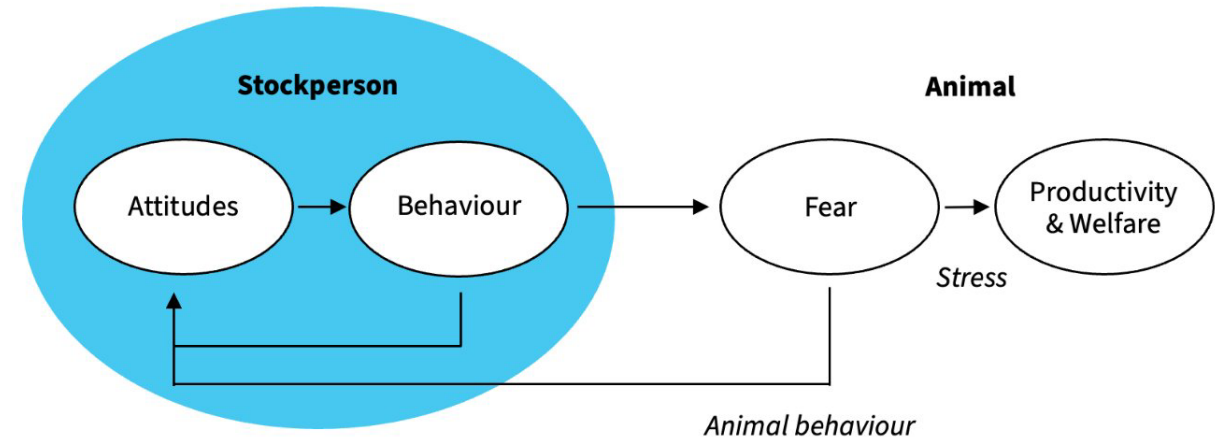
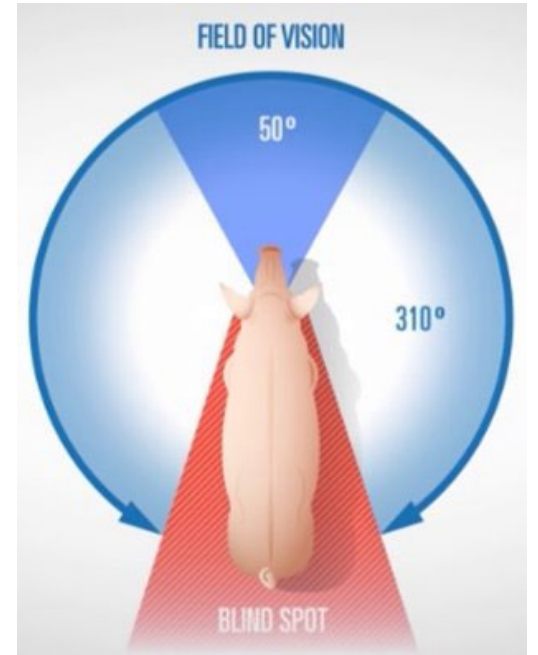


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Knowledge of pig behaviour and sensory modalities is essential for efficient handling



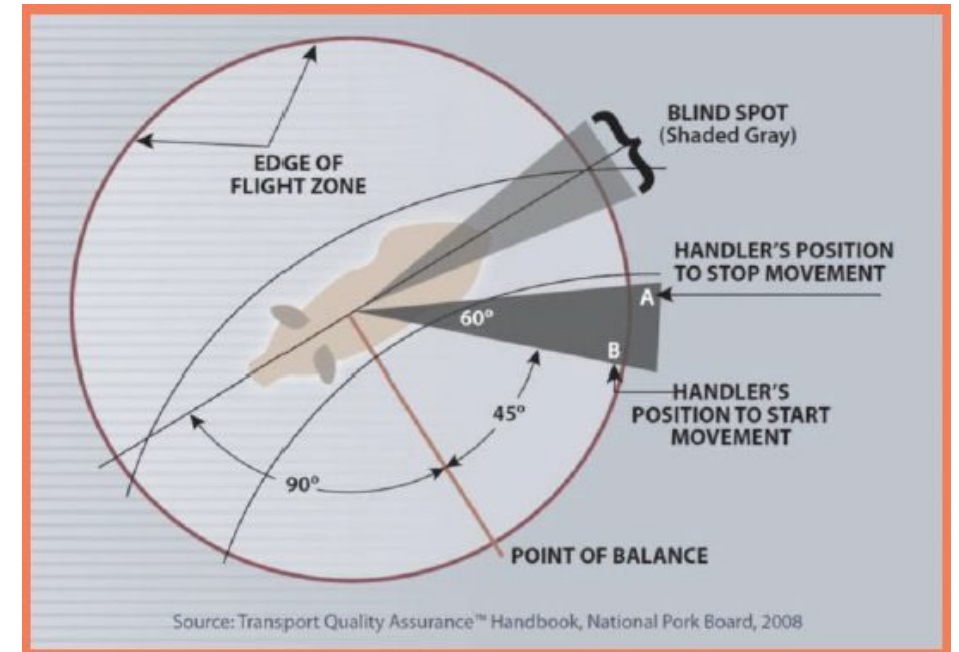
Targeted training of stockperson attitudes and behaviour is as important as training for technical skills and knowledge



Day 2 summary

Topics: Animal handling, welfare considerations of management procedures, humane killing, and housing systems

Articles covered: 7.13.3 Commercial pig production systems, 7.13.7 Handling and inspection, 7.13.8 Painful procedures, 7.13.12 Housing (including outdoor production systems), 7.13.19 Farrowing and lactation, 7.13.2 Humane killing.





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Routine husbandry procedures associated with pain and stress: marking, castration, tail docking, teeth resection, nose ringing.



Replace

Immunocastration instead of surgical.

Reduce

Perform tail docking and teeth resection only as a last resort.

Refine

Provision of pain relief.

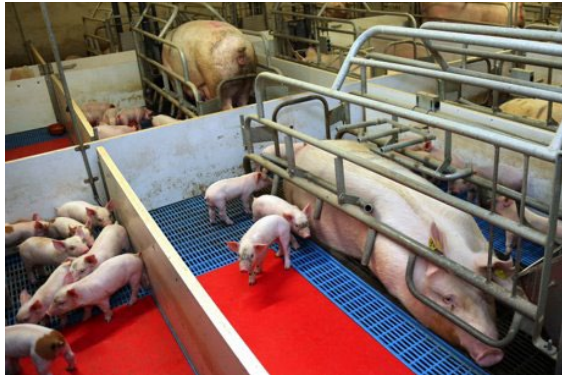
Farmers must have a viable method of on-farm euthanasia for sick or injured animals that will not recover. Training and planning is essential.



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Day 3 summary

Topics: Welfare considerations of environmental and management factors in housing systems, overall planning and management

Articles covered: 7.13.6 Training of personnel, 7.13.9 Provision of feed and water, 7.13.10 Environmental enrichment, 7.13.11 Prevention of abnormal behaviour, 7.13.13 Space allowance, 7.13.14 Flooring, bedding, resting surfaces, 7.13.15 Air quality, 7.13.16 Thermal environment, 7.13.17 Noise, 7.13.18 Lighting, 7.13.20 Weaning, 7.13.21 Mixing, 7.13.22 Genetic selection, 7.13.23 Protection from predators and pests, 7.13.24 Biosecurity and animal health (biosecurity and disease prevention), 7.13.25 Contingency plans, 7.13.26 Disaster management.



Enrichment should be investigable, chewable, edible, manipulable

Straw = gold standard



Good animal welfare can be achieved in any system with good management



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Genetic selection should not be based purely on economic gains, but should also include welfare-relevant traits.



Stockperson training is critical

Contingency and disaster plans are critical



Group activities

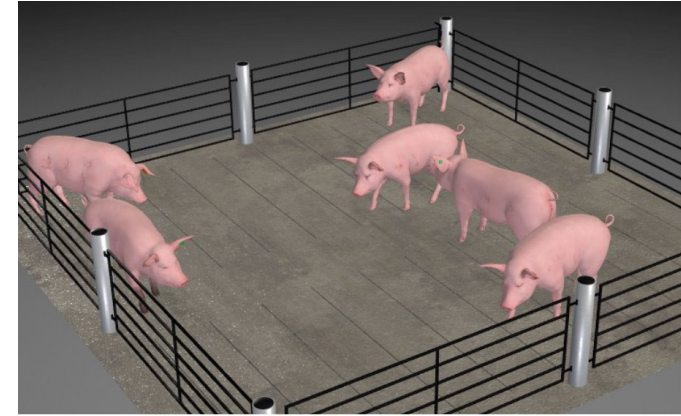
Day 1: applying the Five Domains to growing pigs

Day 2: challenges when moving pigs

Day 3: applying the Five Domains to group vs individual housing of gestating sows and gilts



Bonus activity: 3D pigs



1 - Emaciated	2 - Thin	3 - Ideal	4 - Fat	5 - Overly fat
Hips and spine prominent to the eye	Hips and spine easily felt without pressure	Hips and spine felt only with firm pressure	Hips and spine cannot be felt	Hips and spine heavily covered



None	Mild	Moderate	Severe
No hunching, mostly flat back evident from the side profile	Slightly hunched body posture	Hunched body posture, rounded back, usually low tail posture	Hunched body posture, low tail posture, struggles to bear weight on limb



Benefits and challenges of the ToT

A lot of content to get through!

Limited scope for consolidation of material during ToT → access to all resources and networks.

Limited scope for practical demonstrations.

Missing context for those who didn't attend both ToTs → opportunity for continued interaction within each group's networks.



Thank you



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