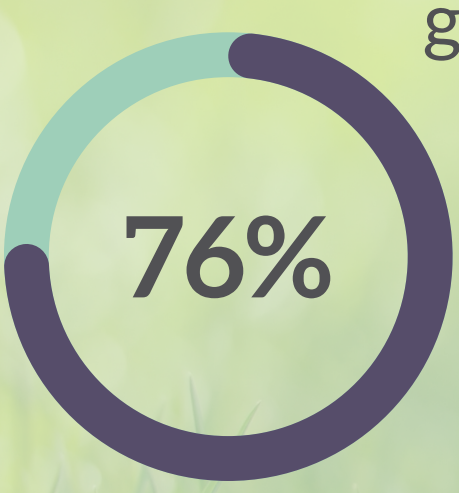
Veterinarians Oppose the EATS ACT

OUR HONOR

Confining mother pigs to gestation crates threatens public health: **Yersinia**



76% of all Yersinia infections are attributable to pork.

Yersinia causes gastroenteritis and appendicitis-like symptoms in humans and can result in blood infections and chronic joint inflammation. Yersinia causes thousands of illnesses, hundreds of hospitalizations, and dozens of deaths in the U.S. annually.

YERSINIA ENTEROCOLITICA (YERSINIOSIS), CDC

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.

In 2012, Consumer Reports found Yersinia on 69% of retail pork samples.

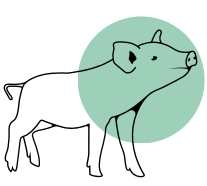
Stress induces the growth of Yersinia. There is a strong association between the fear reaction of pigs and the presence of Yersinia in the pigs' pen.

More than 90% of Yersinia cultured were resistant to at least one antimicrobial drug.

Crated sows have significantly higher levels of the stress hormones adrenaline and noradrenaline than group-housed sows, making them more susceptible to infection.

In California, infection rates of Yersinia tripled between 2014 and 2019.

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)

Yersinia can cause a risk to food safety without any detectible symptoms in pigs.

For more information, visit www.ourhonor.org
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