

Veterinarians Oppose the EATS ACT



Confining mother pigs to gestation crates threatens public health:

Toxoplasma gondii

41%

Pork causes 41% of all *Toxoplasma gondii* infections.

Toxoplasma gondii is a brain parasite that can cause blindness, seizures, and encephalitis in humans with weakened immune systems, miscarriages, and congenital illness in surviving newborns resulting in hearing loss, mental disability, and blindness.

[TOXOPLASMOSIS, MAYO CLINIC](#)

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*.

50%

The risk of purchasing pork contaminated with *Toxoplasma* over a ten-year period

The average person eats 51.8lbs of pork annually according to the USDA.

35,000

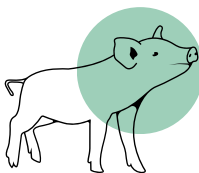
Pork-borne *Toxoplasma* infections in humans occur in the U.S. annually.

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



The annual cost to society of congenital toxoplasmosis in the U.S. is an estimated \$8.8 billion.

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)

Toxoplasma in pork, specifically, is the fourth costliest pathogen at \$1.85 billion annually,

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