

Veterinarians Oppose the EATS ACT



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

94%

Listeria is one of the deadliest foodborne pathogens, with a 94% hospitalization rate.

Listeria can cause severe illness in pregnant women, newborns, seniors older than 65, and the immunocompromised. Listeria infections can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth, premature delivery, or life-threatening infection of the newborn.

[LISTERIA INFECTION, MAYO CLINIC](#)

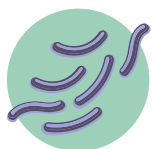
Stress in intensively confined sows increases the growth and virulence of the pathogens pigs commonly carry and stimulates the growth of pathogens such as Campylobacter, Salmonella, Yersinia, Listeria, and Staphylococcus aureus.

15.9% | **Listeria has a 15.9% death rate.**

Sows have been found to excrete Listeria in their waste, thus the transmission of Listeria from sow to piglet is possible.

9% | **Approximately 9% of Listeria infections are attributable to pork.**

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.



Listeria has been found to reach the food supply from infected pigs.

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.

15% | **A 2013 study found, that nearly 15% of pig carcasses carrying Listeria resulted in retail meat slices that were positive for Listeria.**



“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)

Listeria can cause a risk to food safety without any detectable symptoms in pigs.

For more information, visit www.ourhonor.org
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