



# EUTHANASIA POLICY

## GUIDANCE NOTE

The Red Tractor Pigs scheme requires that each site must have a Euthanasia Policy in place, which outlines euthanasia requirements and conditions that are site specific. Red Tractor produce a template that can be adapted to be company and site specific. The PVS Casualty Pig booklet should be referred to when completing this.

You **do not** have to use this template - you can develop your own Euthanasia Policy, or may already have one in existence, however it is worth confirming that the following key areas are covered:

- Methods used on site, for all classes of pigs
- Names of persons signed off as competent in each methods (may be listed separately in the VHP)
- Checks to be made to ensure the euthanasia was effective
- Actions to be taken in the event of an ineffective kill
- Contingency procedures in the event of equipment failure or unavailability of a trained and competent person
- Equipment maintenance requirements, including frequency, and record of checks
  
- The Euthanasia Policy must be signed by the designated person with overall responsibility for animal welfare, to confirm their understanding and approval of the Euthanasia Policy and the business' commitment to following it.
- Also, it must be signed by the farm's designated vet to confirm it is appropriate.

Persons who undertake euthanasia must be trained and competent. See the Appendix of the RT pigs standards for more information on these requirements.



Print & sign (designated person responsible for welfare)		Date	
Print & sign (designated vet)		Date	

SITE DETAILS			
SITE NAME/ ADDRESS			
	NAME	PHONE NUMBER	
PERSON WITH OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EUTHANASIA POLICY			
EMERGENCY CONTACTS			
	METHOD OF RESTRAINT REQUIRED (if applicable)	METHOD(S) OF EUTHANASIA USED	NAME OF PERSON(S) AUTHORISED TO CARRY OUT THIS METHOD OF EUTHANASIA
Pigs up to 5kg			
Pigs 5-10kgs (if a different method to be used from the above)			
Pigs 10kg to 30kg			
Growers/ finishers (30kg to slaughter weight)			
Adult sows/ boars			



## ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IF A PIG REQUIRES EMERGENCY EUTHANASIA/ KILLING

1. If you are signed off as competent for the type of pig, carry out the appropriate euthanasia procedure without delay.
2. If you are not signed off as competent for the type of pig, promptly contact the relevant person (relevant to pig type and method)
  - if they cannot be on the site within 60 minutes an alternative trained and competent person (e.g. vet) **must** attend to the pig

### The trained and competent person must:

3. Confirm that euthanasia is the best course of action for the welfare of the pig
4. Restrain the pig (in a way appropriate to the size - note holding by the ears/ between your knees is not appropriate)
5. Stun/kill the pig as soon as possible with a method relevant to the pig type
6. Check that the stun/kill has been effective
7. If the stun/kill has been ineffective re-administer and re-check it has been effective
8. Where applicable, follow the stunning method with an appropriate killing method
9. Check that the killing method has been effective; if not return to step 7
10. Move the carcass to secure storage prior to disposal

#### Signs of an effective kill

If a kill has been effective, the pig should have:

- i. Lost posture (Fallen over)
- ii. Stopped rhythmic breathing
- iii. Lost corneal reflex (i.e. it should not blink when you touch the cornea (the clear surface) of the eye with a finger)
- iv. A fixed, glazed expression to its eyes, with no eye movement

You must quickly decide if the kill has been effective - if it has been ineffective, you must **immediately** re-administer emergency euthanasia.

#### Actions to be taken in the event of an ineffective stun/ kill

- i. If an alternative method is **not** available (and the equipment is working), re-administer using the same equipment in a slightly different position (1cm higher and 5mm to one side of the previous shot)
- ii. If an alternative method or a stronger cartridge (shotgun/ stunning only) is quickly available, use it. You must be trained for the method and depending on the method you may need to administer in a slightly different position (as above)

#### OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

1. Where possible pigs should be killed away from public view and the view of other pigs - **but must not be moved if it will cause it unnecessary suffering.**
2. **Before** you attempt to carry out euthanasia ensure you have:
  - a. **enough ammunition** (including spares)
  - b. **the right equipment** (including a pithing rod / knife as necessary)
  - c. **well maintained equipment** (using malfunctioning equipment could jeopardise the pig's welfare).
3. Consider **your health and safety** when carrying out euthanasia – with regard to the animal you are euthanasing (could it attack, should you restrain it?) and the equipment you are using (beware of shot ricocheting off floors or walls - are you likely to injure yourself using a shotgun in the location you are in)?



## PARAMETERS FOR DIFFERENT METHODS

Class of Pig	Method	Key Parameters
e.g. Sow	12 bore shotgun	<p>Position of shot - just above eye-level, middle of the forehead, aim towards the back of the throat.</p> <p>Muzzle must be 5-25cm from the sows head.</p> <p>Can be used for all adult sows.</p>

## EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Euthanasia equipment	Maintenance requirements	Frequency

