

Needle Use: PigCare Operating Standard

Prevention Of Broken Needles

- Pigs heavier than 15kg liveweight shall only be vaccinated/treated with detectable steel hub needles, which are typically stronger and sharper than alternatives and can be detected more easily.
- Sows may be injected with aluminum hub or steel hub needles if needles are changed every 2-5 sows and inspected after every vaccination.
- Slapshots are desirable for use in vaccinating sows or grower/finishers to reduce risk of needle breakage.
- For multiple injection programs (e.g. Improvac) a maximum of 20-25 pigs to be used per needle
- **NEVER EVER** straighten a needle – bent needles must be immediately replaced

IMPORTANT: Maintain sharp needles



A good example of an appropriate operating procedure to ensure no broken needle remains in the pig is:

Broken needles

If a needle breaks when you are injecting a pig or a group of pigs, it is essential that you recover the needle. This is the only way that you can be sure that the needle is not left in the meat of the animal.

If a needle breaks (and it is still visible)

Remove as quickly as possible, trying not to restrain the pig, as this may cause the needle to move deeper into the pig.

If unable to remove the needle without restraint, isolate or restrain the pig immediately and attempt to remove the needle.

If a needle breaks (and the metal piece is inside the pig and not visible)

Mark the pig with a numbered ear tag

If the injection site is clearly visible, restrain the pig and make a small cut over the injection site with a new scalpel blade and attempt to recover the needle.

If the needle cannot be extracted, record the side of the neck where injected, the date and the pig's identity in the medicine book. Either arrange for a veterinarian to have a look at the animal, or arrange for it to be

- destroyed on the farm
- slaughtered as soon as possible

If the animal is sent to slaughter, you must still observe the withholding time of the product you were injecting when the needle broke and ensure that the event is recorded on the owner's declaration form (ASD Form) and the slaughterhouse is notified about the needle.

This advice is provided by an industry veterinarian to his clients.

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