

# **Pig Standards Technical Advisory Group Meeting**

**31st October 2023**

## **Meeting Summary Notes**

### **Space allowances**

The group discussed the minimum space allowances for pigs. It was decided that a survey should be circulated to all producers on the space allowances their farms are currently providing.

### **Teeth reduction**

The RSPCA discussed the possibility of phasing-out teeth reduction in the standards, whilst enabling the procedure to be carried out under a veterinarian guidance, where absolutely necessary.

### **Pain relief, nose ringing, tail docking and post-farrowing**

The use of pain relief for nose ringing, tail docking and post-farrowing was discussed. Concerns were raised regarding correct dosage for piglets during tail docking. The group felt that pain relief for nose ringing would be viable, but it would not have benefits for the long term effects. The group agreed that post-farrowing pain relief for indoor free farrowing systems would have positive effects. The RSPCA will continue to look into the possibility of requiring pain relief in these situations.

### **Collection centres**

Currently, there are no specific standards for collection centres. Whilst the use of collection centres is uncommon amongst RSPCA Assured pig producers, the group agreed that it would be useful to develop a set of standards for auditing purposes.

### **AOB**

Topics for AOB include: exceptionally high mortality thresholds, and water quality testing parameters, which the RSPCA will be looking to clarify in the next reprint.