



## **AH.a - Veterinary Health Plan Guidance**

### **The VHP**

- Must be drawn up by a vet
- Must be farm specific
- Must be available to all members of staff who have responsibility for stock

### **The VHP must contain**

- A strategy for the prevention and control of common diseases
- A Salmonella Control Plan
- The health and husbandry procedures covering the whole of the production cycle
- If tail, flank or ear biting or shoulder sores are a problem on the farm then an action plan must be detailed
  - Tail docking, teeth clipping or teeth grinding must not be carried out routinely but may be carried out only as a last resort if formally recommended by a vet
  - Recommendations for tail docking, teeth clipping or teeth grinding must be reviewed and recorded in the VHP
  - If tail docking, teeth clipping or teeth grinding are carried out on farm a policy must be in place within the VHP which details the following:
    - Records of those individuals who are deemed competent to carry the procedure out and their training
    - That the same equipment must not be used to carry out tail docking, teeth clipping and teeth grinding
    - Equipment is kept clean, is in good working order and is identifiable for its use
    - That decisions to undertake the reduction of sharp corner teeth be made at individual level rather than as a uniform policy across the whole herd
    - The pulp cavity must not be exposed during teeth clipping or grinding
    - That records, including date, number of pigs affected, pen/building and suspected reason, must be kept of the following: outbreaks of facial scarring/ udder damage/ discomfort during suckling/ tail biting
- Any recommendations that arise as a result of a Real Welfare assessment
- A Farm Biosecurity Policy
  - This biosecurity policy should cover the following issues both routinely and in the event of a disease outbreak;
    - Management of incoming stock
    - Housing
    - Equipment
    - Farm visitors (details of all visitors must be recorded but not as part of the VHP)
    - Vehicles
    - Salmonella control
- A list of all staff who are deemed competent by the vet to perform injections
- A list of all staff who are deemed competent to perform euthanasia
- A Work Instruction for euthanasia which must
  - Be signed off by the person with responsibility for euthanasia



- Include a record of the methods used on site, for all classes of pigs and the names of persons competent to use the different methods
- If an outside contractor, other than a vet (e.g. knackerman), is used to euthanase pigs, an annual written assurance must be obtained from the contractor that relevant personnel have slaughterman's licences in place
- The key parameters for the methods used (i.e. the size of the animal the method can be used for/ position of shot)
- The checks made to ensure the pig was effectively stunned and/ or killed
- The actions to be taken if the stunning or killing was ineffective

### **Reviewing the VHP**

- Your VHP should be reviewed by you and your vet quarterly or more often in the event of substantial changes to husbandry practices or in the light of poor enterprise performance
  - This review should consider trends in data collected, in particular
    - health and performance data
    - mortality records (including both fallen stock and those euthanased)
    - Real Welfare assessment data
  - The review must also consider any data collected which points to a need to carry out teeth clipping or tail docking and must record quarterly any recommendations for teeth clipping or tail docking to be carried out
- The date of the latest review should be recorded along with your vets signature