

## **XXXXXXG** TOWARD THE FIVE FREEDOMS

ver wonder how farm animals are treated? Animal welfare scientists created the "Five Freedoms" as a tool to measure how well farmers are meeting their animals' needs. The BC SPCA expects all farm animals to be provided the Five Freedoms – unfortunately, not all receive them.

The basics of food and water are covered by **Freedom 1**. For example, out on the range, cattle need fresh, clean water and good quality grass to eat.

All animals feel pain if they are injured, sick or we do things to them that hurt. When dairy cows have their horns removed, for example, pain medication helps it hurt less. That's Freedom 2 – minimizing pain.

Freedom from distress is **Freedom 3**. Being tied to your bed your whole life would be distressing, right? Yet that's what mother pigs (sows) experience. They're confined to a small cage (called a gestation stall) almost their whole lives.

Imagine having to sleep on cold, hard concrete. This is the life of most pigs. If farmers added wood shavings as bedding, they would meet **Freedom 4** – freedom from discomfort.

Picture a dairy cow looking out onto a field of lush green grass yet never getting to leave the barn – ever! Imagine you're a hen living in a cage with other chickens packed so tight you couldn't stretch your wings – ever! Freedom 5 is all about having the freedom to do what comes naturally – like grazing on pasture or stretching wings.

To learn more about farm animal needs, play the *Farm Animal Five Freedoms* game on the next page. —>





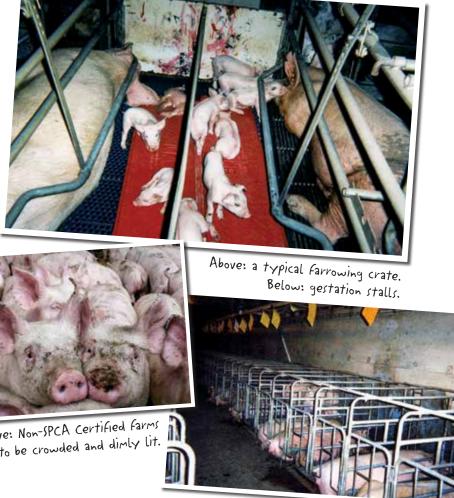


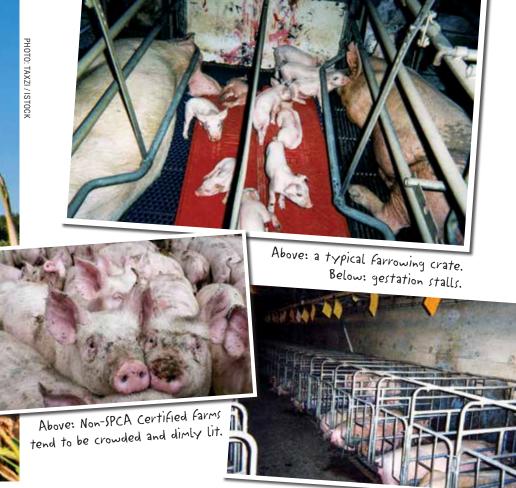
Pain medication





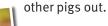
# Rooting for change





What do you know about pigs? If you're like most kids you may only have been up close to a pig at a fall fair. So what are pigs really like?

People are often surprised to learn how smart and social pigs are. Pigs learn quickly and are masters at problem solving. For example, by watching farmers open and close pen doors, pigs learn how to unlock their pen doors. Once out, some will open other pen doors to let



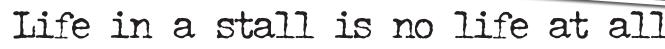
Pigs have powerful, yet delicate noses with skin so sensitive they can easily tell rocks from roots when digging for food. This special skill is put to use by truffle hunters in

France. Truffles are a mushroom-like fungus. An expensive French delicacy that is hard to find. Pigs are trained to sniff out and unearth these fragile foods without bruising them.

Are pigs clever enough to play video games? A pig scientist, Dr. Stanley Curtis, was curious to find out. Using Skittles and M&Ms as rewards, the pigs had to use a joystick to match drawings they saw on a computer screen. The pigs learned that the quicker they matched the images the more candy they got. Sweet

success! In just five tries they figured the game out – as quickly as the chimpanzees did!

So are pigs as smart as chimpanzees or even dogs? According to experts, you can't really compare two different species directly. Each is smart in its own way. What makes pigs similar to all mammals is their ability to experience a range of emotions such as fear, anxiety, sadness, frustration and joy.



What do pigs like to do? Pigs are not too different from their wild relatives - wild boars. Wild boars live in small groups. Most of their day is spent foraging for food. They eat plants, fruits, insects and small animals, and dig for tender roots beneath the soil. When pregnant pigs (sows) are ready to give birth, they find a quiet spot and make a nest. They gather grass and leaves into a soft bed to protect and provide comfort to their piglets.

Today's pigs raised for food don't enjoy much in the way of comfort. They are raised in crowded, dimly lit barns and never go outside. They are bred to grow fast and large.

Sows have the least comfort. Most sows live their entire lives in stalls called gestation crates. The metal barred crates are just big enough to fit their bodies.

Buy SPCA Ce

They can never turn around and can

only take one step forward and one step back. They stand on concrete slatted floors so when they go to the bathroom, their droppings fall through into pits. The life for sows

Your action! Help get the word out about SPCA Certified farm products. With permission, put up the "SPCA Certified" poster. Also, consider doing a school report or speech on the topic of how pigs are raised. For more information visit the BC SPCA's website at **spca.bc.ca/pigfacts.** 

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In the meantime, people can choose to purchase **SPCA Certified** farm foods including pork, eggs, beef, chicken and more. Animals raised on SPCA Certified farms are provided space to move around and enjoy a better quality of life.

is frustrating and boring. The boredom causes them to display mindless behaviours such as bar biting and head swaying, which they repeat over and over, day

Just before they give birth, sows are moved to different crates - farrowing stalls - with room for the piglets on the sides. But the sow still cannot turn around. Plus there is no bedding in which to make a nest. Yet the sow will still paw at the concrete floor to try to make a nest for her and her babies.

There is hope for change. Animal welfare groups including the BC SPCA are working to change the way pigs are being raised. One goal is to make it a requirement that pigs have more space – sows especially – so they don't suffer in stalls. It is up to farmers to put the changes in place.





Like dogs, pigs are very social and love to play, run around and explore. On an SPCA Certified Farm, that's exactly what they get to do!



### Meeting a pig's needs:



#### SPCA CERTIFIED PIG FARMS

October is **Farm Animal Month** at the BC SPCA. It's a time to think about how we treat farm animals and how we might improve their lives. Let's take a look at pigs.

Close your eyes and imagine what farm life is like for the pigs we raise for food. Do you picture pigs outside?

wallowing in a pond or out in a field? Do you see mother pigs (sows) lying on a bed of straw, nursing their piglets?

> Sadly, almost all of the 27 million pigs raised in Canada can't do any of these things. That is, unless they are pigs raised on SPCA Certified farms.

Do you imagine them

On a regular, industrial pig farm – where most

On an SPCA Certified Farm, piglets are able to nurse and sleep close to their mothers in their nest.







pigs live – pigs are raised inside barns. They never walk on grass, smell fresh air



or feel the sun on their backs.

Pregnant sows are mostly kept in crates, called gestation stalls, their whole lives. They can't turn around, much less walk anywhere. Their stalls are too narrow and short.

When nearing the time to give birth, a sow naturally wants to make a nest for her piglets. But on regular pig farms, sows can only scratch at a barren floor. There is no bedding material. The mother and piglets lie on cold, slatted floors.

By contrast, on SPCA Certified pig farms, sows are given the freedom to make nests. They can also rest on soft straw or wood shavings. Sows are never kept in crates at





all. They are free to wander around a large pen with other sows.

#### SPACE AND COMFORT

Growing pigs on a regular pig farm start out with lots of room. As they grow, they fill the space. Soon they get so big there is barely any space to move around. The floor is concrete with slats for urine and droppings to fall through. There is no place to explore or bedding to dig. Some farmers might give them a ball or an old tire to play with, but that's all.

On SPCA Certified farms, pigs spend time outside or inside the barn with space to move around and bedding to rest on. They enjoy running, playing and foraging for food, digging with their powerful noses.

When you know that pigs are as clever and social as dogs, then how

By contrast, there is no room to move in this farrowing

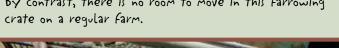
you raise them matters even more. SPCA Certified farmers raise their animals in ways where they don't suffer from discomfort, boredom and frustration. To

see more pictures of SPCA Certified farms, visit spcacertified.ca.

Can you think of ways to improve the lives of farm animals? Send us your ideas and you could win one of three SPCA Certified hats plus some other SPCA Certified goodies. You must be 13 or under to enter.



Send your ideas to: Bark! Farm Animal Month, 1245 East 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5T 1R1 or email to kids@spca.bc.ca. Contest ends October 31, 2015.





## Oink! Bark? Oink! Bark? Oink! Bark? Oink! Bark? Oink! Bark? Oink! PIGS PLAY VIDEO GAMES

Some people say pigs are smarter than dogs. That's hard to know for sure but they are among the most intelligent, curious and outgoing of all animals. They learn quickly and can solve problems. For example, by watching farmers open and close their pen gates, pigs can figure out how to unlock their pen doors. Once out, some will open other pen doors to let more pigs out.

In France, pigs are trained to help people dig for truffles, a highly prized, expensive fungus (like a mushroom) that grows underground. The pigs sniff them out and using their powerful but sensitive snouts, dig up the precious fungi without bruising them.

They are so clever they can even play video games. That's right! Pig scientist Dr. Stanley Curtis, says that pigs have an amazing ability to learn and remember. He tested this out by creating a video game for pigs to play. Using their noses, pigs were taught to control a modified joystick to play the game.

Using M&Ms and Skittles as rewards, the pigs had to move the computer cursor to match drawings they saw on the screen. As they got better at recognizing the images they got quicker and received more candy. Sweet trick! In just five to ten tries they figured the game out – as quickly as chimpanzees.

But are pigs smarter than dogs? According to experts you can't really compare two different species of animals directly. Each is smart at different tasks. Pigs use their noses to do a lot of tasks – to push objects or dig. Dogs use their mouths more. Both, however, have a similar range of feelings and emotions.

Since pigs are largely kept as food animals, people know more about what makes dogs happy. But pig experts learn what makes pigs happy by giving them choices and observing their behaviour, such as where they would like to lie down. In one experiment, sows (mother pigs) were offered the choice between a metal cage with a concrete floor, where they are unable to turn around (which is how they are normally kept on most pig farms), or a pen with bedding that gives them a warm place to curl up in. Guess which one they choose? The comfortable pen. In another study, pigs were given the chance to switch the lights on or off in the barn. Turns out pigs

like more light than they normally get in barns. On most conventional pig farms, pigs are kept in dimly lit barns except for feeding and cleaning times. Many barns have few, if any windows. By knowing what pigs like, farmers can provide better care to meet their physical needs (food, water and housing) and their emotional needs (what makes pigs happy and more comfortable).

Like their wild relatives, pigs love to explore and "root" around – meaning they use their snouts to dig for food. Yet pigs raised for food are normally kept in barns in pens on concrete floors. This can be frustrating for the pigs. This is why some farmers, like SPCA Certified pig farmers, provide digging material for their pigs – either in the barns or by letting them outside. On the SPCA Certified Celista Springs Ranch, all pigs get to experience the outdoors.

Currently, observing pig behaviour and studying the choices pigs make is one of the only ways we can know what pigs are thinking and feeling. But what if we could talk to pigs? Dr. Curtis is now focusing on teaching pigs sign language. He hopes to teach pigs to associate pictures with words. The idea is to build a "vocabulary" so pigs can communicate in ways people can better understand. Why? According to Dr. Curtis, "Well, for starters we could ask them what kind of pens they prefer."



SPCA Certified Celista Springs Ranch provide nursing mothers (sows) with comfortable bedding and lots of space. They also let their pigs play outdoors.

PET PIGS? Would pigs make good pets? Not really. Even though they are smart, pigs grow extremely large. In fact, a typical cute little piglet goes from three pounds to 250 pounds in just six months! But that is only the normal weight that a pig goes to market. Pigs continue to grow up to 700 pounds as fully grown adults!

TRUE OR FALSE? Pigs can bark? True. When pigs are startled they make a loud, deep barking sound. In a big barn of pigs if one barks it sets off a chain reaction and you'll hear a chorus of barks throughout the barn (and a cloud of dust). Pigs are dirty: False. Pigs are actually one of the cleanest animals. Sometimes you see pigs in mud. They go into mud or water only to keep cool because they don't have sweat glands like people.







Most pig Farms are dimly lit, crowded and pigs have no outdoor access.