

NAWAC Pig Subcommittee

Thursday 25 February 2021

0900 – 1730

Date:	Thursday 25 February 2021
Time:	0900 - 1730
Location:	Room 1.03, Charles Fergusson Building, Wellington
Attendees	
Subcommittee members:	NAWAC Subcommittee Members (Chair Included)
MPI Secretariat:	MPI Representatives
Invited Guests:	Individual Expert Industry Representative Advocacy Group Representative

Thursday 25 February				
	Topic	Lead	Time	Room
1.	Opening and Karakia	Chair	0900	CFB 1.03
2.	Preparation for Five Domains Workshop	Chair	0905	
3.	Five Domains Assessment	Individual Expert	1000	
4.	Lunch		1200	
5.	Five Domains Assessment	Individual Expert	1300	
6.	Discuss ideal format of Five Domains Assessment and wrap up	Chair	1600	
7.	Closing		1730	CFB 1.03

Meeting Summary:

On Thursday 25 February 2021, an expert in the use of the Five Domains model to assess welfare impacts presented a workshop and assisted the subcommittee to develop a framework to assess welfare in pig farrowing and mating systems. The Five Domains model provides a sound scientific and philosophical basis for assessing sow and piglet welfare within a range of farrowing systems.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- To ensure all participants understood and were able to explain the philosophical basis, structure and correct application of the Five Domains model for assessment of animal welfare.
- To support participants to use their expert knowledge of farrowing management options to assess (and justify their assessment of) the welfare impacts and benefits of each option for sows and piglets.
- To support participants to generate and apply a grading system to allow relative ranking of the overall welfare impacts of the different farrowing management options for sows and piglets.

Key points to consider in the assessment:

- The Five Domains model give qualitative assessment only, with positive and negative experiences considered in their broader context
- The Five Domains model ensures the user considers Domains 1-4 then interprets these, with any inferences and justifications noted.
- Mental experiences are unavailable for direct measurement, but the model allows assessment in a credible, evidence-based, and justifiable manner.
- Evidence must be provided for any inferences, including notes of any circumstantial evidence.
- Use of the words “distress” and “suffering” should be avoided - experiences must be specific.
- Evidence can be placed amongst any of Domains 1-4 but should only be placed once, unless it is leading to two different experiences
- Naturalness cannot be quantified. Many ‘natural behaviours’ may not reflect good welfare e.g. pain behaviour, or fear behaviour, while unnatural conditions or behaviours may reflect positive welfare.
- Highly motivated behaviours are measurable.
- Human presence and behaviour will affect animals’ behaviour, physiology, and their productivity and need to be considered in the assessment of welfare.