



INTACT TAILS WITHOUT TAIL BITING?

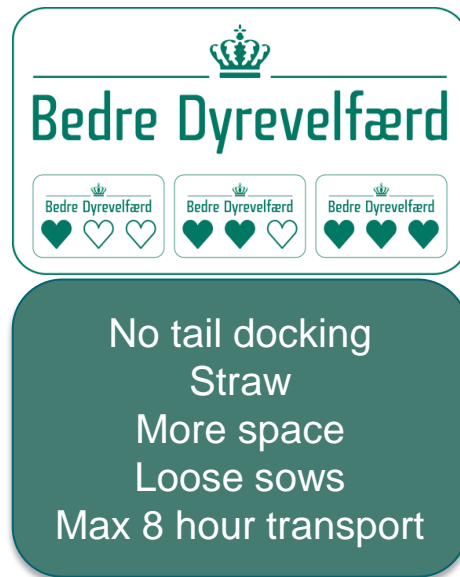
Helle Pelant Lahrman, SEGES & Sergii Borysiuk, Krannestrup

INTRODUCTION SPEAKERS



WHY TALK ABOUT INTACT TAILS TODAY?

- Routine tail docking is not legal
- Risk factors associated with tail biting are numerous
- New government animal welfare label
 - Experience from practice



INTACT TAILS WITHOUT TAIL BITING

Is it possible?

- in a professional indoor system

Do our best to:

- Prevent
- Reduce
- Minimize



KRANNESTRUP - NIELS AAGE ARVE



1300 sows

- No tail docking
- Straw
- More space
- Loose sows
- Max 8 hour transport



8500 weaners (one location)
5500 finishers (four locations)

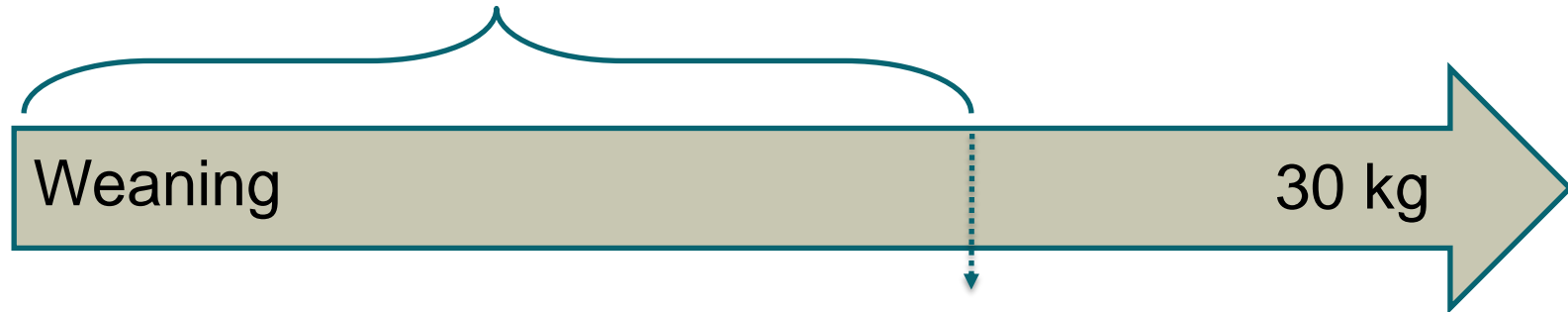
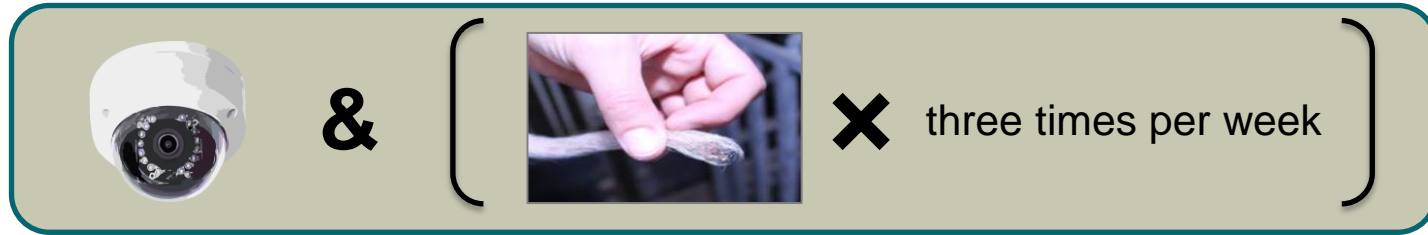
Study aim

Can future tail biting pens be detected based on behavioural changes prior to the outbreak?

Does tail directed behaviour observed prior to an outbreak affect the behaviour of the receiver?



DATA COLLECTION



Tail biting outbreak (day 0)



Min. 4 pigs

TAIL DAMAGES – DAY 0



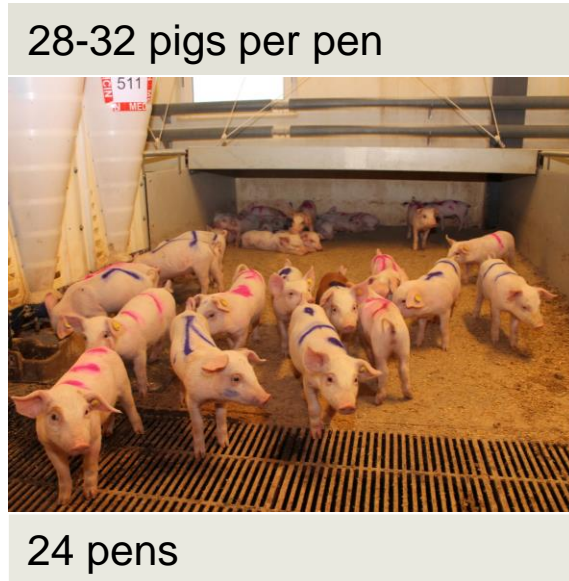
TAIL DIRECTED BEHAVIOUR (TDB) - INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

Recording period:

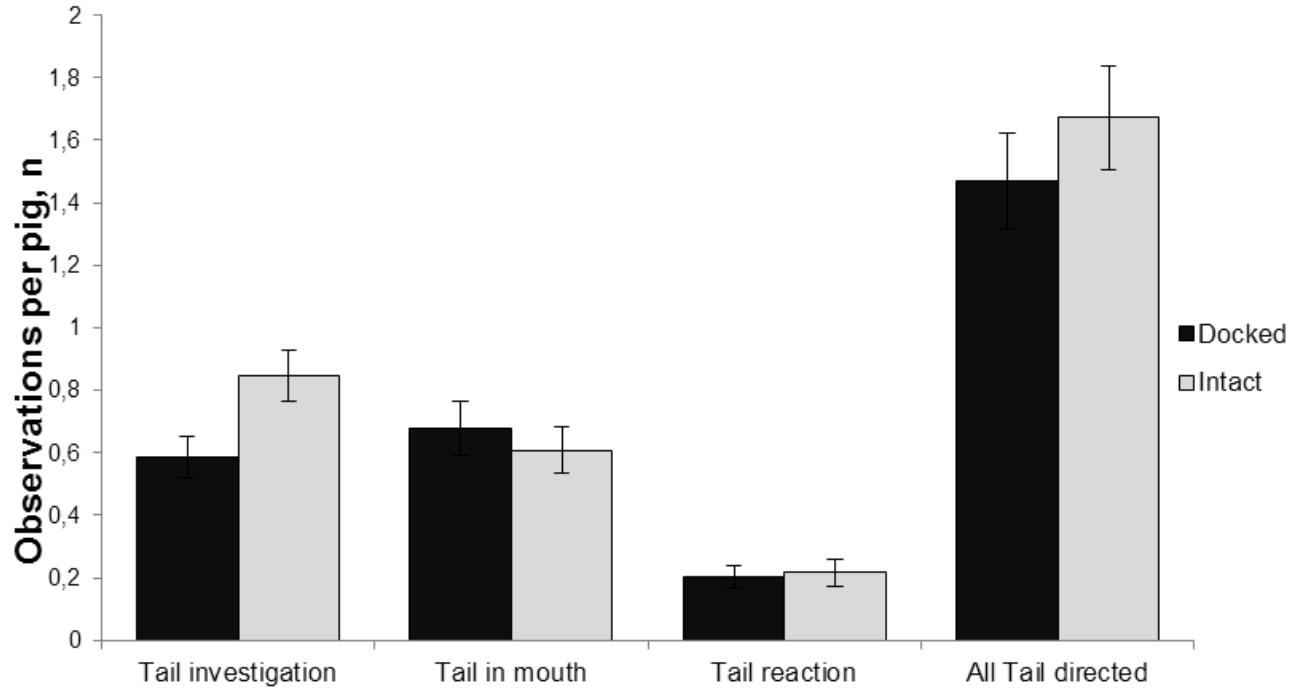
- Two hours on the day before an outbreak

Recordings:

- Reaction of the receiver
- Tail posture (before & after)



VICTIMS REACTION TO TDB



(Paoli et al 2016, Animal Welfare)



BEHAVIORAL CHANGES ON PEN LEVEL?

Video study

Activity & tail posture (56 pens)

- Day -3, -2 and -1



VIDEO



LOOK!

Hanging tails & tip of the tail



Weaner unit have 10 rooms with around 8500 pigs



- 4 rooms for 950 piglets in each
- 4 rooms for 1050 piglets in each
- 2 rooms for 250 piglets in each

Weaners get dry feed

- Three different kinds of feed
- Automatical feeding system



Around 1 year ago we started to produce pigs with long tails

- Is it possible?
- How to take care about such weaners?
- Will we have a lot of extra work?



We wean from 850 to 1000 6 kg weaners per week

- Heated stable till 25 °C
- "Easy straw" on the floor in each pen
- Sort weaners by size
- Put 35 weaners per pen



Reduce stocking density

- Selling 7 kg weaners
- 450 weaners every third week:
 - 150 weaners - 1 week after weaning (middle size)
 - 150 weaners - 2 week after weaning (smallest)
 - 150 piglets - weaned this week (biggest)
- We reduce stocking density from 0,3 m²/weaner to 0,4 m²/weaner

Straw for weaners

- Give straw into staw racks
- Around 15 minutes per stable
- One time per week for small weaners
- Two-three times per week for big weaners



Access both to the straw and to the feed!!!!



Prevent 90 percent of tail biting

*How to behave yourself with that
kind of weaners?*

The tail biting can develop in different ways

When you see:



Wound
on the tail

Tail down

Bleeding tail

What we do

Few tail biting



Many tail biting



Tail biting getting low:



No Bleeding tail

No Tail down

No Wound
on the tail

Move weaners with severe wounds to the hospital pen

- When the tail is swollen and red
- Spray all the bitten tails with antiseptic (blue spray)
- Give medicine to those with red tails
- Give extra straw on the floor



Finishers should get the same care, as weaners

- Give straw to the finishers
- Sorting finishers
- Check them for the tail biting
- Temperature and ventilation control
- Access to the feed and straw



When we see tail biting

- Let pigs run in the corridor
- Move pigs with severe wounds to the hospital pen
- Change pens in places
- Find and move the biter out



Long tail challenges

Difficulties in finding biter

Risk of tail biting at 20 kg weaners

Slurry system

Last day before selling

Abattoir tail biting remarks

| Autumn - winter 2016 Tail docked | Spring- summer 2017 Intact tails | DK 2016* Tail docked |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 0.21 % | 0.81 % | 0.52 % |

*Danish Crown

The commonly discussed risk factors

Climate changes

Feeding problems

Health challenges



Lack enrichment

Age

Daily routine

INTACT TAILS - WAYS FORWARD?

1. Market driven animal welfare
 - Intact tail expense: 60 kr./ pig
 - Get experiences from first movers
 - Prevent, reduce & minimize



2. Better risk factor understanding
 - Most cost effective way to produce pigs with intact tails without compromising animal welfare?

THANK YOU

