



Environmental enrichment of pigs

Guest Editor:



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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

The limitation to fulfil ethological and physiological needs can negatively affect welfare and cause abnormal behaviours. Pigs have a strong motivation to perform foraging behaviour from a very young age. Although the exact triggering mechanisms remain unclear, tail-biting is considered a redirected behaviour as a response to insufficient stimulation in association with other negative environmental and management hazards. The lack of adequate enrichment material appears as an initial risk factor that can trigger stress and tail biting. Therefore, an important challenge is to deliver data on enrichment materials with attributes that satisfy pigs' needs. The aim of this Special Issue is to collate research on "enrichment materials for pigs", tailored to different climatic conditions and production systems.

We invite original research papers addressing new insights on enrichment materials or on how to implement those materials on commercial farms. Topics of special interest include: effects of enrichment material on welfare, handling, and productivity; effectiveness of enrichment materials; adequate enrichment materials; carry-over effects of materials provided early in life; cost-benefit analysis; and overcoming practical barriers for implementation.

