

SAFE YOUTH

Kids Voice 4 Animals



Issue 2 - September 2014

SAFE Newsletter – for kids who know that animals matter.

Welcome to Issue Two of the SAFE Youth newsletter.

This issue is all about pigs. Pigs are awesome animals. There are pigs in story books, pigs on television and if you are a fan of The Muppets you will know there are even 'Pigs in Space'! Sadly, there are also pigs on farms and on factory farms they live in terrible conditions. There are lots of things we can do together to help pigs live happy and peaceful lives. Check out **page 4** for ideas.



PIGS 'BEHIND CLOSED DOORS'



Pig farming has been in the news in the past couple of months and not in a good way.

Animal activists from Farmwatch visited a farm in Canterbury earlier this year and found the pigs in shocking conditions. The activists filmed mother pigs (sows) in crates so small they crushed their own piglets, a dead pig in a pen with live pigs, pens filled with water and animal waste, and dozens of rats running all over the pigs. The sad



thing is the activists had visited the same farm in 2013 and given the footage to SAFE. In 2013 SAFE made an official animal welfare complaint about the farm – but clearly the conditions had not improved.

SAFE decided the new Farmwatch 2014 footage should go to the media. The TVNZ Sunday programme picked up the story and put together an item about the pig farm, which aired in June. New Zealanders were disgusted with what they saw. Many people called the SAFE office angry and upset that pigs were living this way.

One pig in particular touched SAFE's heart. Pig 83 (so named because of her number '83' ear-tag) was in the same crate she had

been filmed in one year ago. She looked so miserable.

SAFE Head of Campaigns Mandy Carter said, 'This Christchurch pig farm is really very bad but the pig industry as a whole is not good.'

Watch the Sunday show here:

'Sunday: Behind Closed Doors' – 29 June 2014:

tvnz.co.nz/sunday-news/behind-closed-doors-video-6014696

The Press 'NZ pig farms 'cannot be trusted' – 30 June 2014

stuff.co.nz/the-press/news/10214561/NZ-pig-farms-cannot-be-trusted

Farmwatch

www.farmwatch.org.nz/

ANIMAL PROFILE PIGS

Lifespan:

25 years (wild)

4 years (sow on pig farm)

16 weeks (piglet farmed for meat)

Type of animal: mammal

Diet: omnivore

Natural habitat: Pigs can live in most habitats but prefer grassland.

How many domestic pigs in the world?

Approximately 80,000

Pigs are probably most recognised for their unusually flat and round snout. Pigs use their snout to dig up soil in search of food. The snout is very strong with a pre-nasal bone and special disk of cartilage at the end, which makes the snout quite firm.



Pigs' ancestors are wild boars, slightly smaller, hairier versions of the domestic pig with a longer snout. Pigs have poor eyesight and their eyes are generally quite small. This is made up for by an exceptional sense of smell.

Interesting facts about pigs

DIRTY?

Pigs are in fact very clean animals. They do however like mud baths. This is because pigs don't have sweat glands and a nice mud bath helps cool them down on a hot day.

GREEDY?

Pigs don't actually eat that quickly. They often savour their food and can be quite fussy eaters.

CLEVER?

Pigs are known to be very clever indeed – they are considered to be more intelligent than dogs. Winston Churchill famously said, "I am fond of pigs. Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us. Pigs treat us as equals."

CAN THEY FLY?

Pigs can't fly (unless they are on an aeroplane). The saying 'when pigs fly' is used in order to express something that is impossible. The idea of pigs flying must have seemed a crazy idea. Other similar sayings include 'when hens have teeth' and 'when the moon turns into green cheese'.

Why do pigs have curly tails?

Not all pigs have curly tails. The curly tail is found only in domestic pigs after hundreds of years of breeding – much like the selective breeding of dogs and cats for different characteristics (long hair, short hair, long legs, big ears, for example).



KIND FOOD

Feeling hungry? There are lots of yummy recipes without animal ingredients. These banana chocolate chip muffins are Hamilton SAFE Youth member Meia's favourites. We hope you enjoy them too!

Banana chocolate chip muffins

INGREDIENTS:

1 3/4 cups flour

1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon sea salt

1 1/2 cups mashed ripe bananas (4 medium bananas)

2/3 cup maple syrup

1/3 cup virgin coconut oil

2/3 cup non-dairy chocolate chips*

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 180°C. Melt coconut oil in a small saucepan and remove from heat to cool.

Grease a 12-cup muffin tray.

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt.

Add the mashed banana and maple syrup to the coconut oil and mix then add this to the dry mixture. Stir just until combined.

Fold in the chocolate chips (make sure that the mixture isn't too hot from the coconut oil before you do this or else your chocolate chips will melt).

Spoon the batter into the muffin cups and bake for 20-25 minutes.

Remove, let cool for about 5-10 minutes, then go ahead and indulge!

*Meia always uses Ceres organic choco drops because they don't contain palm oil. The planting of palm trees for palm oil in Asia has caused serious problems for animals such as the Orangutan whose forest homes have been destroyed.



SAFE Youth ANIMAL HEROES



SAFE Youth member Bethany (10 years, on right) and her friend Laura collected hundreds of signatures in Upper Hutt for SAFE's 'Say 'no' to intensive pig farming in New Zealand' petition in August. What an amazing effort!



Christchurch SAFE Youth member Abby (12 years, on left) and SAFE volunteer Mayouri help out at SAFE's vegan sausage sizzle at the Lyttelton Street Party in June. The sausages sold out by 9pm and no pigs were harmed!

TIPS TO HELP ANIMALS

There are a lot of ways you can help pigs.

1. Keep pork off your fork!

The kindest thing you can do to help pigs is not to eat them. When you stop eating and buying pork fewer pigs will be farmed for meat and your money won't go towards factory farming.

2. Teach others about factory pig farming

Factory farming takes place in dark sheds. Most people will never see inside these farms. You can give your friends and family SAFE leaflets about factory farming or show them SAFE's video 'Stop Factory Farming':



VIDEO

SAFE – Stop Factory Farming
<http://www.safe.org.nz/stop-factory-farming/>
 (8min 42sec)



QUICK FACT: New Zealanders eat on average over 20kg of pork per person per year. An eight-week-old piglet weighs about 22 kg.

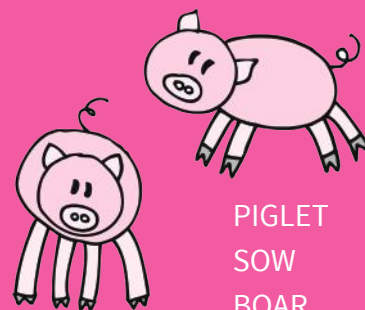


FACTORY FARMED PIGS

Pigs are confined in large, windowless sheds for their entire lives. The only time they'll see daylight is on the way to slaughter.

PIGGY-WIG WORD FINDER

F C T
 O H W A N L V D K
 I X P Y Z R D F E L M D V
 A F G F N J N R U V N V O M N P B
 T W T P N B V L O H Z H G E J W V B G
 X L L H U U X C L W Y N L Z Q R W S G G H
 C P X L D U Y W S I N L J U G L Z W N W G
 Y C E W L G Z G O O N I J K O I V X S P F G H
 H R H N U L T W P I G L E T L T C K B Y V X V
 Z I R V A J E W Y W W A E T G P S O K W A T Q M I
 R Z A X E C K F F G H P H P H T G L L X F N D C E
 D H O T L E R M E A B R T I A P Q U H L N M Z G T
 J D N B F C G L A D K Y X C L D X R N W A V T Z G O K
 M U Z D Z A T J R M B C R L I K X O M A U D G D S H F
 U C F D S T R U J J P O G O C C C R Z L M K J C P X O
 Q I J P D U M U Z I E F N M U V T D M P O H M H M
 A M V M E U O I O E T D V I B X U O O Q U S E U D
 Q T A T R N W N N M T S Y L N F V M P U K B I Z Q
 E V U O T T I S G A P P D G E C E O H M W M I
 A L M V T L B X T I Q A W E P T S M B E H R S
 B U I D P Z I P L A V L F H K T A D O K S
 Y U N L Z B Y R L Y Y C Q L S I A S L U W
 P M U R N I S I L A M M A M C S F G P
 O S T C W H X Y E D Y R R J D H Y
 Z I L L Z F Z M P W S U A
 N B D Y H F S N A
 R L F



PIGLET
 SOW
 BOAR
 SNOUT
 DOMESTIC
 STALL
 OMNIVORE
 MAMMAL
 TAIL
 FARROWING
 FARMING
 FATTENING
 SMELL
 CLEAN
 CLEVER
 SHED
 CRAMPED



ANIMALS IN TROUBLE

What do you know about pig farming in New Zealand? Did you know that over 800,000 piglets are farmed on New Zealand farms for people to eat?

A LIFE OF TORMENT FOR PIGS

Most of the pork eaten by New Zealanders comes from pigs kept in cruel intensive production systems. They lead a miserable existence inside dark, overcrowded pens or in crates so small they can't even turn around.



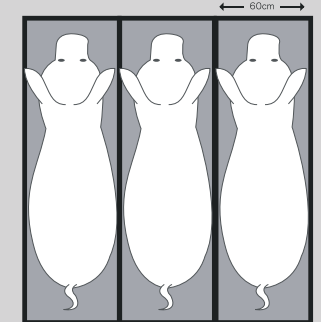
THE SOWS - NO LIFE FOR ANY MOTHER



FACTORY PIG FARMERS CONFINE THEIR BREEDING SOWS (who produce the piglets destined to become meat) in individual sow stalls for the first four weeks of their 16 week pregnancy.

15,000

NUMBER OF FEMALE PIGS CONFINED TO SOW STALLS. SOW STALLS ARE BARREN METAL BARRED CAGES SO SMALL THEY CAN'T EVEN TURN AROUND. **CAGES ARE ONLY 60 CM WIDE x 2 M LONG BARELY LARGER THAN THE ANIMALS OWN BODIES.**

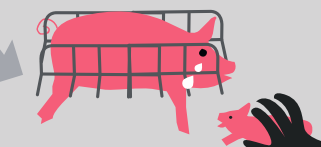


1



A sow is moved to a farrowing crate when she is about to give birth. She is not able to build a nest or mother her piglets properly.

2



SHE'LL STAY THERE UNTIL HER BABIES ARE TAKEN AWAY AT 4 WEEKS. Then she is returned to the sow stall.

3

The cycle of abuse begins again.

SAFE's campaign to end the use of sow crates for pregnant sows led the government to phase out this practice.

HOWEVER SOW STALLS WILL STILL BE IN USE UNTIL 2016

EVEN AFTER THIS DATE FARROWING CRATES WILL STILL BE LEGAL, MEANING SOWS WILL STILL BE CRUELLY CONFINED FOR AROUND

10 WEEKS PER YEAR

67%

of farmers use farrowing crates

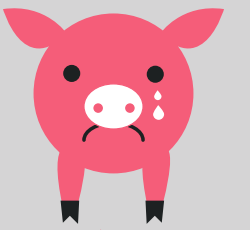


2.5 LITTERS PER YEAR



5 YEARS

AGE AT WHICH A SOW IS CONSIDERED USELESS HER LIFE SPENT CONFINED TO PRODUCE PIGLETS, SHE'S THEN SENT OFF TO SLAUGHTER



PIGLETS - FARMED FOR PORK



4 weeks old

Age at which piglets are removed from their mother. In the wild they'd wean at 17 weeks and females would spend their lives with their social group.

800,000 PIGLETS KILLED EACH YEAR IN NZ

Many of them fattened up in dark, concrete, barren pens, so stressed and bored in their overcrowded conditions they bite each others' tails.



16 WEEKS

Age piglets are sent to slaughter. Naturally they would live up to 15 years



PIGS ARE CLEVERER THAN A 3 YEAR OLD CHILD

Life on a factory farm, for these highly intelligent and curious animals is torture. They suffer boredom, stress and depression living in such cramped and barren environments.

WILD PIGS WOULD SPEND

75%

OF THEIR DAY FORAGING

For factory farmed pigs kept in concrete pens, life is miserable - deprived of their most basic needs: fresh air, sunlight, mud baths and soft bedding.



42%

OF PIG PRODUCTS SOLD IN NZ IS IMPORTED FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE PIGS ARE KEPT IN SIMILAR INTENSIVE FARMING CONDITIONS

SAFE YOUTH FOR ANIMALS MEMBER PROFILE

Wellington SAFE Youth member Otis Garrett-Knoche is our SAFE YOUTH member profile this time.



Name: Otis Garrett-Knoche

Age: 8 and a half

Hometown: Wellington

Favourite animal: Panda

What got you interested in wanting to help animals?

Because I'm a vegetarian and want to look after animals - especially pandas!

What animal issues upset you the most?

The chickens look really sad in the cages.

What's your favourite veg food?

Vege sausages - yum!

Anything you want to share about animals?

It's really nice to see chickens like the ones that live next door to us enjoying life not in a cage!



HOW TO JOIN the Safe Youth Group - Kids' Voice 4 Animals

The SAFE YOUTH GROUP is open to children aged between 8-14 years. If you would like to join the SAFE YOUTH GROUP - KIDS' VOICE 4 Animals – fill out the form below and send to: Nichola Kriek – Education Officer, SAFE, PO Box 13366, Christchurch 8024. We will send you three newsletters per year and keep you up to date with any SAFE Youth events.

Name:	
Date of birth:	
Street:	
Suburb:	
City:	
Phone number:	
Email:	

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