



Improving conditions for “suspect” animals at slaughterhouses



Eyes on Animals is greatly concerned about the welfare of “suspect” animals at slaughterhouses. These animals are considered fit enough for slaughter, but because of their symptoms of fatigue, fever or injury are kept in separate pens and only slaughtered at the end of the day. This is done so as not to risk contaminating the slaughter line. As a result, these “suspect” animals, which are already in a state of light suffering, are left on bare and often damp concrete floors for lengthy periods of time. Eyes on Animals would like to challenge the slaughter industry to improve conditions for these animals by providing warm bedding material to them.

In article 3 of the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 93/119/EC of 22 December 1993 on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing it is stated that “animals shall be spared any avoidable excitement, pain or suffering during lairaging”. After visiting several plants that provide bedding to these animals, Eyes on Animals argues that suspect animals would be spared avoidable suffering if all slaughterhouses did the same.

Standard practice:

suspect animals are left all day in damp, barren concrete pens.



Desired improvement:

providing straw to suspect animals permits them to rest properly and reach their thermal comfort zone.



How it works?

Example: Cooperl pig slaughterhouse (France)



At Cooperl, fresh straw is placed in the pen destined for “suspect” animals.



The soiled straw is regularly removed from the pen and placed on the manure pit.



The soiled-straw is then picked up....



.....and transported to a field where soiled-straw and manure is spread (part of the slaughterhouse's manure removal system).

Should the slaughterhouse's manure-handling or sewage system not be able to handle straw, an alternative (although less favorable than straw) is using woodchips. Eyes on Animals has observed this at Vion slaughterhouse in the Netherlands.



Pen used to house "suspect" pigs at Vion is covered in woodchips