



As a producer, you have just made a significant genetic investment for the future of your operation. This document will outline what to do upon arrival of the boars, especially the critical first few days, to help ensure the boar will be productive.

HUMAN CONTACT

Human contact is important, as boars need to be comfortable with people. The importance of training and its influence on achieving optimum semen collection should not be underestimated. A minimum of 15 minutes per boar per day should be dedicated to socializing and training juvenile boars.

TRANSPORTATION STIFFNESS

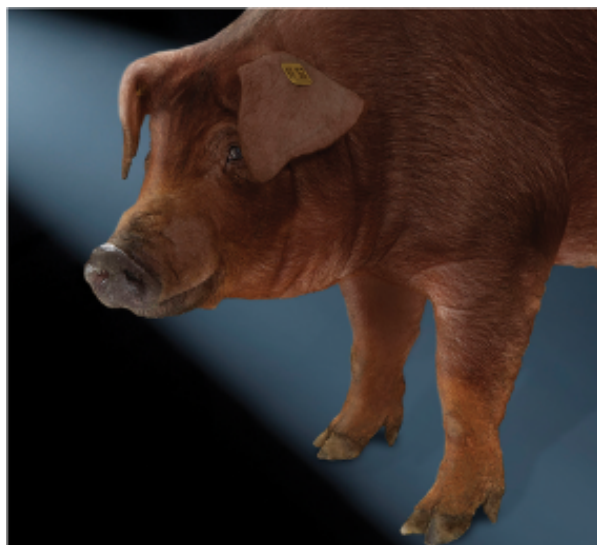
Boars that are immediately put in crates have more trouble getting over their stiffness. We recommend that on the day following arrival, you give the boars the opportunity to walk around the barn or keep them in a collection pen. This accomplishes two goals:

1. Allows the boars to loosen up their stiffness
2. This lets the boars socialize

Boars exhibiting lameness after one day in the unit should be treated with appropriate medication. Please consult with your veterinarian and be prepared to treat boars, if necessary.

ARRIVAL

Just like humans, boars are often stiff and sore after the long transport ride. It is important for boars to rehydrate after transport. Make sure a source of clean water is available upon arrival. Depending on the length of the trip, electrolytes may be warranted as well.



CLINICAL ILLNESS

Each boar should be examined every day for signs of illness. This is especially critical after arrival into the isolation or main barn. Signs of illness include but are not limited to:

1. Inadequate feed and water intake
2. Coughing or sneezing
3. Diarrhea
4. Lethargy
5. Warm and/or swollen joints
6. Inability to get up or stand
7. Neurologic or head pressing
8. Fever

If any of these signs are seen please contact your herd veterinarian immediately.

VACCINATIONS

We highly recommend administering the following vaccinations upon arrival into the isolation barn:

1. Ileitis (Lawsonia)
2. Erysipelas
3. Parvovirus
4. Leptospirosis

Other vaccinations to consider:

1. Influenza
2. *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*

Work closely with your herd veterinarian to develop a vaccination plan suitable for your herd.

TRAINING NEW BOARS

It is important to note, young, crated boars will de-socialize rather quickly and become difficult to train if not worked with for several weeks. Providing adequate human interaction and a stress-free environment prior to the training process is key. A good training program would result in >98% training rate.

Boars can be trained to jump the dummy as early as 190-days of age, however sexual maturity and sperm quality generally are not achieved until around 220-days of age. Starting the training process in the range of 190-210-days of age is recommended. This allows boars exercise, gets them on a collection schedule and they become accustomed to the collection process prior to production utilization.

Points to consider when training boars:

- Make the process as stress-free as possible. A bad experience at the collection pen for the boar will decrease training rate success.
- Avoid any type of procedures (tagging, vaccinations, teeth clipping, etc.) during the training process or in the collection pen.
- House young boars together. Placement of a young boar next to a mature boar may be intimidating to the young boar.
- Use a warmup pen for boars that are “on-deck” to be trained.
- Collection pen size and design should be similar to what the boar will be exposed to in the main collection barn. Design should limit distraction and be sized to prevent the boar from being able to turn around allowing them to focus on the dummy.
- Provide flooring that prevents slippage or the boar falling off the dummy during the collection process (rubber mats or traction grids may help this process).
- Consider the use of natural prostaglandins, if applicable.
- If a boar has no interest in jumping the dummy, do not force the issue. If the boar becomes frustrated, the rate of training success will decrease. After 10-minutes of no interest, try the boar the next day. Continue the process for three consecutive days.
- Once the boar is trained, continue to collect from the boar once per week.
- If using a semi-automatic collection system, get the boar accustomed to this system right away.

ENVIRONMENT

Proper ventilation results in an environment that maintains a temperature optimal for production, air quality that is comfortable for both the boar and the caretakers, and a dry environment that reduces bacterial contamination and slick surfaces.

General environmental recommendation for boar barns:

- Temperature: 65-68°F
- Humidity: 40%-70%
- Ammonia: <5 ppm
- Carbon Dioxide: <3,000 ppm
- Hydrogen Sulfide: <5 ppm

FACILITIES

Maintaining a clean environment is important in improving the quality of air, decreasing bacteria load and reducing the possibility of collection contaminants. Washing front alleyways weekly to reduce dust and feed build-up and scraping rear alleyways daily is recommended. Pay close attention to penning, equipment and surfaces that may cause abrasions, cuts, or slick surfaces resulting in injuries.

ROUTINE COLLECTIONS FOR PRODUCTION

Collection pen design and collection technique will vary by facility design and management practices. Regardless of the technique, collection from boars should result in a clean collection, free of debris and bacteria. This experience for the boar should be pleasurable and stress-free and provide a safe situation for the collector.



Collection area design recommendations:

- Separate from the animal housing area to provide a more hygienic environment that can easily and effectively be sanitized after each day's use.
- Provide a collection pen as small as possible to prevent the boar from turning around and from other distraction.
- Keep focus on the dummy.
- Good footing to prevent slippage.
- Escape area or sliding access door for worker safety.

Collection process recommendations:

- Utilize warm up pens.
- Proper dummy height to prevent injury and provide a comfortable collection experience for the boar. The height of the dummy is near the level of the shoulder blade height of the boar. Proper dummy height will result in the penis coming out parallel to the floor or up-hill slightly, and prevent the penis from coming in contact with the collection dummy.
- Three glove collection technique preferred.
 - First Glove: Evacuate prepuce.
 - Second Glove: Extend penis with paper towel to clean off penis. Roll off glove/paper towel.
 - Third Glove: Grasp the penis for free catch collection or to attach penis to semi automate system.
- Semi automate collection preferred.

SUMMARY

Following these steps will help ensure the boar will be as productive as possible and maximize the investment you've made. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your National Account Leader or the Technical Services Team with DNA Genetics.

