

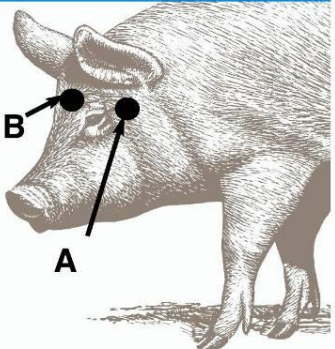
Euthanasia in pigs (Following the Model code 2008 AU)

Various euthanasia methods in pigs

	Piglets <3 weeks old	Nursery pig < 10 weeks	Growing pig	Finishing pig	Mature Sow or boar
	Birth – 6 kg	6-30 kg	30-75 kg	75 kg +	
Carbon dioxide	Yes	Yes	Not practical	Not practical	Not practical
Gunshot	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Captive bolt	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Blunt trauma	Yes	No	No	No	No
For veterinarians only					
Anesthetic overdose	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Carbon dioxide may be a suitable method to assist euthanasia of large groups of animals in the case of a serious disease outbreak.

Technical data

Carbon dioxide	
	CO ₂ causes rapid onset of anesthesia with subsequent death due to respiratory arrest. CO ₂ is heavier than air, therefore when constructing a container for swine euthanasia the outlet valve should be located at the top so that the container can be completely filled with CO ₂ while air is allowed to escape. For small pigs a garbage can with the inlet and outlet valves installed in the lid plus a plastic bag liner can be used. After checking for complete euthanasia, the bag containing the pigs can be removed
Gunshot and penetrating captive bolt	
	Training in firearms is essential. The animal should be restrained by a rope or snare over the upper jaw held by an assistant. These methods stun or kill by concussive force and penetration into the brain. Using a captive bolt, it is recommended that carotid (neck) artery is severed once the pig is stunned. The captive bolt should be positioned against the forehead as shown. A firearm must be held 2 to 10 inches from the skull (do not press against the forehead).
<p>A indicates recommended position for temporal method of firearm only</p> <p>B indicates recommended position for frontal method directed upwards at 20° towards the brain.</p> <p>Severe carotid artery after stunning with a captive bolt gun.</p>	

Blunt trauma

A sharp, firm blow with a heavy blunt instrument on the top of the head over the brain is an efficient way of humanely killing pigs less than 6 kg in weight (3 weeks of age).

A sharp, firm blow with a heavy, blunt instrument on the top of the head. It is essential that the blow be administered swiftly, firmly and with absolute determination. If there is any doubt whether the pig is dead, the blow should be repeated. Once rendered unconscious sever the carotid artery.

