



**Explain to the employee why it is important to understand pig behavior.**

- Pigs communicate their needs to us with their behavior.
- Being aware of pig behavior can help to prevent stress and injury to both pigs and handlers.



**Demonstrate how employees can create positive experiences for pigs during daily checks.**

- Move calmly and quietly in the pens on a daily basis.
- The pig's history of positive experiences begins the day they are born. Make every interaction with them count.



**Discuss the pig's three responses to potential threats and what the handlers can do when pigs respond this way.**

- When feeling threatened, pigs will freeze, flee or fight.
- Pressuring a pig that is feeling threatened will stress the pig which could cause injury to both the pig and handler.
- A handler should move calmly and position their eyes downward to seem less like a predator to calm the pigs down.



**Have the employee identify the pig's blind spot and practice positioning him or herself in the pig's field of vision when applying pressure.**

- The pig's blind spot is located directly behind the tail. Pressuring the animal to move forward from this position will confuse the pig and inhibit forward movement.
- Apply pressure to the pig's flight zone from a position where the pig can see you.



**Show how to prepare and inspect a hallway prior to movement.**

- Prepping the area is essential for safe and smooth movement as fear and curiosity are two powerful pig instincts.
- Clear the hall of all debris, wet spots, tools and equipment
- Make sure lights are turned on for pigs to better see where they are going.



**Approach a herd of pigs and describe at what point the herd begins to move away. Discuss how this point represents the limits of the flight zone.**

- The pig wants to keep a safe distance between itself and the handler. The point at which the pig moves away from us determines the edge of the flight zone.
- The size of the pig's flight zone is dependent on the pigs comfort level with the handler and the situation.



**Show the employee how to let pigs circle around them to release pressure.**

- Pigs circling back will follow around the arc of the handler's bubble as they pass.



**State barn protocol for the number of pigs to be moved per group in the space available.**

- If employees are having trouble moving pigs, reduce the number of pigs per group.
- A balked pig being moved by itself can be encouraged to move by having another pig brought up to move with them.



**Demonstrate how to apply smart pressure: visual stimuli, sound and light physical touch, with and without an animal handling device.**

- Apply pressure thoughtfully and minimally, do not use handling devices as substitutes for smart positioning.
- Knowing when to release pressure is a safety priority for the employee and the pig.



**Discuss barn protocol in the event of treating a severely stressed or non-ambulatory pigs.**

- Recognizing early signs of stress and situations that cause severe stress to the pigs.
- Pigs that have been severely stressed require special care. Applying more pressure to this pig could be life threatening for the animal.