

NEWS RELEASE



21 July 2009

Compassion in World Farming
Tel: +44 (0) 1483 521 952
+44 (0) 7771 926005

COMPASSION IN WORLD FARMING SUPPORTS CAMPAIGN AGAINST IMPORT OF LIVE PIGLETS

Compassion in World Farming welcomes the National Pig Association's campaign to prevent a trade in imported piglets which threatens to bring diseases such as MRSA from Belgium into the country.

Compassion in World Farming believes that live import of piglets poses a high threat to their welfare. Animals transported on long journeys from abroad are likely to suffer from hunger, thirst, exhaustion and overcrowding. They suffer from motion sickness and are often fasted before the journey as a consequence.

Phil Brooke, Welfare Development Manager for Compassion in World Farming, says: "Live imports of recently weaned piglets mean long journeys with poor welfare. We may be rearing animals which have been bred using methods, such as sow stalls, which have been outlawed in Britain on welfare grounds."

"British pig farmers are right to want to ban the cruel import of piglets from the Continent to prevent the spread of diseases like MRSA, just as the Dutch farmers were right to stop importing calves from Britain to keep out Tuberculosis. Long-distance transport causes avoidable suffering, especially for such young animals. Risking the spread of disease through live imports or exports is crazy."

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For further information or to arrange interviews contact Valentina Moressa on 01483 521952 or 07771 926005 (out of office hours) or email valentina@ciwf.org