

Author: Chaire BEA

*Contributing authors: Lydiane Aubé, Estelle Mollaret, Alice de Boyer des
Roches, Céline Tallet, Valérie Courboulay, CNR*

Infographie : Marion Weisslinger

DOI : 10.5281/zenodo.12913010



<https://chaire-bea.vetagro-sup.fr/en/>

May 2022

Species sheet – All about pigs!



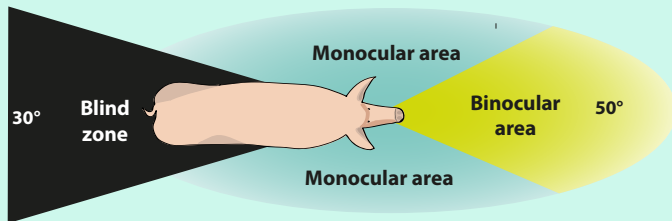
You probably know that pigs like to wallow, but do you know why? Did you know that pigs have an excellent sense of smell and very advanced cognitive abilities?

Thanks to this new species sheet, you will soon know everything about pigs!

Sensory abilities

Sight

Their visual fields is **panoramic** (330° vision)



They are short-sighted, their near vision is clear and their far vision is **blurred**

They cannot distinguish **colors** well

Pigs have a **very good perception of movements**



But they adapt **very slowly** to light changes

Taste

Pigs are able to **identify the 5 primary tastes** (sweet, salty, bitter, sour, umami)

They have **twice** as many taste buds as humans

Pigs have a preference for sweet and an aversion to bitter

Smell

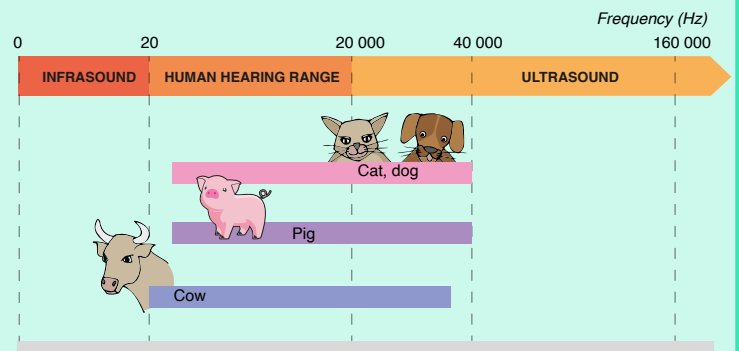
Pigs have a **better** sense of smell than humans. It is **equivalent** to dogs'

7% of their brain is dedicated to processing olfactory information (0.01 % for humans)

The sense of smell is used for **communication** (via pheromones) and **exploration** (recognition of mates, the breeder, sexual interactions...)

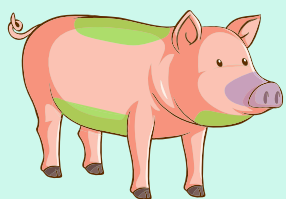
Hearing

Pigs are **very sensitive to high-pitched sounds** and less sensitive to low-pitched sounds



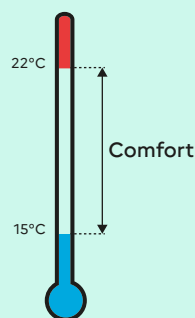
Touch

Sensitivity to touch

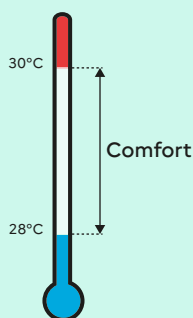


- Preferred contact areas between pigs
- Most sensitive area

Thermal sensitivity



Pig



Piglet

Touch is a **highly developed** sense with touch receptors and the ability to **feel pain** all over the body

Pigs cannot regulate their temperature **by sweating**, which requires them to adapt their behaviour (e.g. wallowing, i.e. coating the body surface with mud)

***Thermal comfort of pigs depends on the physiological stage of the animal and temperature perception depends on humidity and air velocity**



DID YOU KNOW?

Pigs can get sunburned !

