



Pigs are intelligent, sensitive and social animals. They have also often been subject to some of the cruelest and most painful forms of intensive farming. The Greens will introduce laws to make sure they don't suffer unnecessarily in sow stalls.

### ABOUT SOW STALLS

Sow stalls are restrictive metal cages that are used to confine individual pigs during pregnancy.

Sows can spend between one and sixteen weeks confined in a sow stall, during which they are unable to turn around, move sideways, or properly lie down.

This form of confinement is not only cruel, it is also completely unnecessary.

#### The Greens will:

- **Introduce legislation to ban sow stalls in Victoria.**

### THE CRUELTY OF SOW STALLS

Research by *Voiceless* found that sows suffer greatly in sow stalls, which:

- prevent a sow from turning around and moving from a lying to a standing position (and vice versa);
- frustrate natural behaviours such as exploring and socialising with other pigs;
- cause repetitive behaviours such as biting the metal bars of the cage out of frustration;
- cause skin abrasions from the metal cage;
- lead to reduced bone strength and muscle weight, impaired locomotion, and severe lameness.

Voiceless also found that 67 per cent of Australian sows spend between one and four weeks of every pregnancy in stalls, while 20 per cent are confined for more than six weeks of their pregnancy - sows are repeatedly impregnated before being killed at about two years of age.

The scientific consensus is that sows can be housed more humanely in group pens if the pens are designed and managed correctly.

Sow stalls have already been banned in 33 countries, nine states in the USA, and in the ACT and Tasmania.

Because stalls are cruel and unnecessary, some major Australian retailers have also begun to move to 'sow stall free' pork.

It's time Victoria did too.

The Australian pork industry has committed to voluntarily phasing out sow stalls. However, as this is self-regulation, the industry itself is responsible for its policing without independent verification or penalties for non-compliance.

Legislation is what is needed to finally put an end to sow stalls in Victoria for good.

#### References:

Voiceless (2013) *Science and Sense, The Case for Abolishing Sow Stalls*  
[https://www.voiceless.org.au/sites/default/files/Reports/PDFS/Reports/VoicelessReport\\_Science\\_And\\_Sense\\_2011.pdf](https://www.voiceless.org.au/sites/default/files/Reports/PDFS/Reports/VoicelessReport_Science_And_Sense_2011.pdf)