

Hospital pens

Hospital pens are compulsory, and there must always be one hospital pen ready for pigs with special needs. Experience shows that min. 2% of all place units must be place units for hospital pens.

A hospital pen must

- Have soft bedding in min. 2/3 of the floor area
- Have a heat source and a cooling device
- Be draught-free

Space requirements

Weight interval (kg)	1 pig per pen (m ²)	More than 1 pig per pen (m ²)
7-15	0.41	0.36
15-30	0.69	0.58
30-60	1.14	0.91
60-100	1.70	1.29
100-130	2.05	1.53

Feed and water

- The pig must have easy access to feed and water
- Dry feed is recommended to maintain a high level of hygiene
- Hospital pens for weaners/finishers should be located in a separate section

Examples of soft bedding

- Straw (the pig must not be in direct contact with the floor)
- Woodchips
- Rubber mat

Move a pig to a hospital pen if it needs

- A soft lying area (eg. poor legs/arthritis)
- More heat (eg. cerebrospinal meningitis)
- More space and quiet (eg. large hernia with minor lesions)
- Access to feed and water without competition (eg. tail bites)

How to use a hospital pen

- Move pigs with acute disease, act before it is too late
- Pigs heal faster in good hospital pens
- Move pigs to buffer pens when healed; that frees up space
- Put down chronically unthrifty pigs; that frees up space



Straw used as soft bedding



Soft rubber mat used as bedding



Cover with heat lamps



Buffer pens should be available to accommodate healed pigs moved from hospital pens

Mats for hospital pens

See:
vsp.lf.dk/Viden/Stalde/Sygestier