

Video Transcript

ZOOL 567 Topic Dissemination

Slide 1:

Everything you need to know about stereotypies in pregnant sows.

Slide 2:

What are stereotypies?

Repeated behaviours that do not seem to have a function, and are not natural for an animal to perform (Terlouw et al., 1991; Spoolder et al., 1995).

Slide 3:

Why do stereotypies occur in domestic animals?

Stereotypies allow animals to adapt to an environment that does not satisfy their needs (Radkowska et al., 2020).

Stereotypies can reduce stress, lower heart rates and distract from the environment (Robert et al., 1997; Zhang et al., 2017; Radkowska et al., 2020).

Slide 4:

But stereotypies aren't actually a good thing!

If allowed to continue, stereotypies can become more permanent over time and may damage the stress response of an animal (Van der Peet-Schwering et al., 2003).

As well, stereotypies are usually induced by frustration, stress, or boredom, and are now considered to be an indicator of poor animal welfare (Robert et al., 1997; Zhang et al., 2017; Tatemoto et al., 2020).

Slide 5:

Here is a video showing sows that are sham chewing

(CIWFeducation. (2009, Nov. 26). *sows in pen sham-chewing*. [Video]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPuvzNphYJQ>).

This is when sows display a chewing motion without eating any food (Tatemoto et al., 2020).

Similarly, this sow is displaying a stereotypy known as bar-biting (CIWFeducation. (2009, Nov. 26). *sow in sow stall bar-biting*. [Video]. YouTube.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-n_85orVsNs; Radkowska et al., 2020).

Other stereotypic behaviours can include bar-licking, chain-biting, chain-licking, [and] excessive drinking (Radkowska et al., 2020).

Slide 6:

Sows typically display stereotypies when their environment restricts natural rooting and exploratory behaviours (Zhang et al., 2017; Radkowska et al., 2020). This can occur when there are diet restrictions or space restrictions (Bergeron and Gonyou, 1997; Bergeron et al., 2000; Zhang et al., 2017; Radkowska et al., 2020).

Slide 7:

How can we mitigate stereotypies in sows?

- Increase the bulkiness of diets (Bergeron and Gonyou, 1997; Robert et al., 1997).
- Increase the amount of fibre in diets (Robert et al., 1997; Whittaker et al., 1998; Van der Peet-Schwering et al., 2003).
- Increase the calories (energy) in diets (Bergeron and Gonyou, 1997; Robert et al., 1997)
- Provide straw as a foraging substrate (Spooler et al., 1995; Whittaker et al., 1998).
- Group-house sows or increase enclosure size (Terlouw et al., 1991; Zhang et al., 2017).

Slide 8:

We can make a difference in improving sow welfare!

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Slide 9:

Video Credits:

CIWFeducation. (2009, Nov. 26). *sows in pen sham-chewing*.* [Video]. YouTube.

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CIWFeducation. (2009, Nov. 26). *sow in sow stall bar-biting*.* [Video]. YouTube.

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*NOTE: these titles are exactly as written on YouTube.

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