

A close-up photograph showing the faces of several pigs behind metal bars, likely in a confined space. The pigs' eyes and snouts are visible through the bars.

Viva!

When pigs cry

A Viva! investigation of U.S. farms has revealed shocking facts about how pigs are treated. Most spend their lives crammed in disease-ridden, filthy indoor units. Viva! found sick pigs tossed into the aisles like trash to die; some were still alive but could not reach food or water. Others were already dead – and rotting. One pathetically sick pig died in front of our video camera. There was nothing we could do to save him.

These were not isolated incidents. Time magazine reported that on the farms of one huge producer, 420,000 pigs died prematurely in a single year. These losses are built into the economics of pig farming.

Why does it happen? For years there has been a steady intensification of pig farming. Now, large industrial units are the norm. Pigs are commodities. To make them grow faster, they are given growth-promoting antibiotics on a daily basis. Many of these drugs are banned in the EU because of their role in creating deadly, antibiotic-resistant bacteria.



You can't visualize these places, you have to see them. The smell of excrement is overwhelming. The pigs – who have an acute sense of smell – can never escape. Ammonia fumes damage their lungs and, not surprisingly, many die of respiratory diseases.



Almost all mother pigs – the breeding sows – are kept in what are termed 'total confinement facilities'. This innocuous term actually means imprisonment – indoors and confined in metal crates just inches wider than their bodies. These desperate creatures can never walk or turn around for their entire lives. Total confinement is the fate of 83% of mother pigs, according to the USDA.



Transportation to slaughter is equally horrific. Often in open trucks, many die from heat stroke in the summer or freeze to death in winter. In 1998, nearly 277,000 pigs were dead on arrival at slaughterhouses.



And it doesn't end there. Many pigs are inadequately stunned – merely paralyzed so they feel all that happens as they are killed. Some are known to enter the scalding tank fully conscious and are literally boiled alive.

This suffering has to stop and here's what you can do to help:

GO veggie
Get involved

By refusing to eat meat, animals are no longer reared and killed in your name.

Contact *Viva!* to find out what you can do to make a difference!

Viva!

Local group:

Please send me **FREE** information

First name

Last name

Street Address

.....

City

State Zip code

Return to *Viva!*, P.O. Box 4398, Davis, CA 95617

or call us at 530/759-8482 (VIVA)

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