

At Intake

- Question and record the feed type owner has been providing.
- Ask if 'Mazuri' feed has been used, how did the swine respond.

Primary Precautions for Mature Swine

- Swine are **very** susceptible to overheating.
  - Temperatures 70 degrees Fahrenheit and above can cause overheating and require assessment, cooling and monitoring.
- Swine do not sweat to dissipate heat and easily succumb to heat stress.
  - Once overheated, it is most difficult to overcome. As such, heat stress is the primary cause of illness in swine.
- "Over conditioning" (overweight) lends an additional level of risk for heat stress.

Primary Precautions for Piglets

- Piglets (35-40#) are susceptible to cold temperatures and a heat lamp is standard protocol.

Heat Stress

## Symptoms to recognize:

- Elevated respiration, normal is 30-60, over 60 you have a problem
- Elevated temperature, normal is 101.5 – 103.5, over 103.5 you have a problem
- Reddening skin
- Lethargy
- Rapid and shallow breathing – heart rate will exceed 60
- Panting
- Off feed – miss 1 feeding, 2<sup>nd</sup> feeding – may be okay. If 2<sup>nd</sup> still hasn't eaten, get creative! Provide fruit, 1-12% - 2% of body weight/day
- Coughing, discharge (observe color and add to the report)
- Exercise intolerant
- Scours
- Diarrhea
- Exercise intolerant

Prevention

- If transport is needed, every effort should be extended to transport during low temps.
- When temps reach 70#, provide cool water and bedding of shavings or straw (the most economical).
  - Be cognizant that straw may contain mites.
- Misters are a good source of cooling paired with fans.
- Hand garden pump sprayers with ice in the tank are another good method to cooling.

Action to Take if Heat Stress Develops

- Alert Shelter Manager who will call for veterinary care.
- Exhaust all possible measures to cool!
- Unlimited cold water.
- If reasonable, cooling can be attained inside of thighs due to less fatty tissue. Apply ice packs in a wet towel.

Moving or Loading into Transport Vehicles/Housing

- Use 'pig boards' (3' wide x 3' tall).
- Panels for holding swine provide challenges in containment as the gaps between the bars provide means for pigs to simply lift the panels and move them. In a shelter operation, keep this in mind if panels are the only resource or confinement.