



# Farmer Compliance

The Importance!



As a veterinarian, it is important to remember that you are building a relationship with your client.

Your client should be able to understand:

- The Procedure you are about to perform
- The Risks associated with it.
- Complications that may occur
- Actions to follow if they go arise

As a veterinarian, it is important for you to understand the purpose of this animal in the client's life.

Communication and understanding are 2 key skills needed in this situation.

# What does this mean for the boar?

The reason this surgery was elected to be done at such an old age is likely attributed to the fact intact boars are more efficient in feed conversion and produce a leaner carcass than surgically castrated piglets. This is generally crucial for all production systems.

This 4 year-old boar is also at the end of its reproductive life as a breeder. Its productivity value will now depend on carcass quality.

# What is taint in pork?

Boar taint is a defect affecting certain sensory properties of meat for consumers (odour and taste). Two main compounds are responsible for boar taint: androstenone and skatole. Androstenone is a male steroid pheromone while skatole is a by-product of tryptophan metabolism in the large intestine. The more mature the pig becomes, the more of these compounds are produced, especially androstenone; this is the main reason castration is done.

**Note:**

While under anaesthesia it may be a good time to cut any enlarged tusks, examine the pigs teeth, check ears for mange mites and trim feet.

# Given the history of this animal, we can suspect an inguinal hernia

The blood vessels and spermatic cord pass through a hole in the abdominal wall known as the inguinal canal. Boars can suffer from inguinal hernias. This is when the abdominal contents, usually the guts, protrude through the inguinal canal and into the scrotal sac. Sometimes the hernia is evident before they are castrated. Sometimes it can happen after castration, once the testicles have been removed. In order to try to prevent this happening, some vets may suture the vaginal tunic closed after removing the testicle – as a ‘closed’ castration.

## Risks:

- There is always a risk that the animal will not react well under general anesthesia.
- There is also the risk of infection.
- With hernias, there is the risk of recurrence.