



Not just a pretty snout- a piglet model for handling, intramuscular injection and tail docking

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A decrease in teaching pigs and the discontinuation of the sow breeding program at our facility limited student access to piglet handling (catching and restraint), intramuscular injection and tail docking procedures. To increase exposure and enable repeated practice opportunities, a soft toy piglet was modified using a zipper, silicone pads, a 500g bean bag, a silicone anus and liquorice to create the model.

The zipper was sewn into the abdominal side for ventral access and a silicone ring into the anal region. A small silicone pad was placed into the snout, underneath the piglet sleeve. A big silicone pad was placed into the neck and trunk section. The 500g bean bag was added to the abdomen for additional weight and the original soft toy stuffing was readjusted. The liquorice string is placed through the silicone anus, can be "docked" and is easily set up for the next student by pulling on the liquorice stump. An additional feature is a screaming piglet audio clip that can be activated when the piglet is turned upside down. The model has been implemented for veterinary student use in the Veterinary Ethology module in 2017. Two hundred-and-twenty second year students performed all three procedures during supervised practical sessions and were examined on the model during the module exit examination. In 2018, in addition to second-year veterinary students, the model is also used for first-year veterinary nursing students (n=55) for piglet handling and injections.

Teaching staff and student feedback is overwhelmingly positive.



Piglet squealing sound