

Finnish Farm Animal Welfare Council, April 5th, 2011

Statement of the Finnish Farm Animal Welfare Council on the European Declaration on alternatives to surgical castration of pigs

The EU Commission and the chairing nation Belgium have drafted a common EU position on swine castration. Representatives of European farmers, meat industry, retailers, researchers, veterinarians and animal protection organizations accepted in December 15th, 2010, an European declaration on alternatives to the surgical castration of swine, in which they agreed to voluntarily give up the surgical castration of swine in Europe by January 1st, 2018. In addition, it was agreed that from January 1st, 2012, the surgical castration of swine is to be conducted by methods where the swine are given long-acting pain medication and/or the procedure is conducted under local anesthesia or sedation.

The Finnish Farm Animal Welfare Council has discussed in its meeting the European proclamation on alternatives to the surgical castration of swine. The Council supports the aims of the proclamation and emphasizes that the ultimate goal must be set at giving up the surgical castration of swine.

Additional information on the Finnish Farm Animal Welfare Council

Government decree on the Finnish Farm Animal Welfare Council, May 13th, 2009
<http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/2009/20090330>

Tasks and composition of the Finnish Farm Animal Welfare Council
http://www.mmm.fi/fi/index/etusivu/tiedotteet/091119_tuotantoelainten_neuvottelukunta.html

Minutiae and statements of the Finnish Farm Animal Welfare Council
<http://www.mmm.fi/fi/index/etusivu/elaimet/tehvnk.html>