Right From the Start

Swine
Characteristics

- Strong nose and snout
- Strong jaw and teeth
- Low center of gravity
- A lot of weight on small feet
- Tend to fight with other pigs
- Can be aggressive
- Easily frightened
- Natural rooters
Characteristics

- Smell well
- Poor vision clarity
- Wide field of vision
- Sensitive to changes in light
- Very good memory
- Intelligent
- Creatures of habit
- Do not sweat or cool themselves
Equipment

- Steering device
- Whip
- Pipe
Equipment cont.

- Sorting board
Grooming

- Calming experience for the animal
- All handlers should groom from the same side of the animal
  - Allow the animal to have an escape route
Acclimatization

- People
- Environments
- Sounds
- Lights
- Trailers
- Routes
Health

- Wash your hands after handling
- Exhibitors should not perform injections
  - Pigs have excellent memories
- Sick animals and/or exhibitors should not go to the show
  - Zoonosis- an infectious disease that can be passed from animals to humans
Common Injuries

- Slips/falls
- Bruises, cuts, and scrapes
- Muscle and/or back pain
Injury Prevention

- Wear closed-toe shoes or boots with non-slip soles
- Handlers should always be supervised
- Approach pigs calmly and slowly from the front
- Work with animals frequently
- Keep the practice area clear of debris to reduce tripping/slipping hazards
- Small children are perceived as predators
The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education

www.swagcenter.org
903-877-5998
agcenter@uthct.edu

Support for this resource was provided by NIOSH/CDC Cooperative Agreement #U54-OH07541 and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™