

## Does chronic intermittent stress increase manipulation behaviour in pigs?

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### Background

- Aggression and sexual behaviour ↑ in entire male pigs compared to castrated male pigs or female pigs (Boyle & Björklund, 2007; Holinger et al., 2015)
- Skin lesions ↑, lameness ↑ (?) (Rydhmer et al., 2006; Bünger et al., 2015; Holinger et al., 2015)
- Welfare ↓ ?
- Do entire male pigs show more signs of chronic stress?



## Experimental design

- 2 x 2 x 2 factorial design
- Entire males / castrated males
- With / without chronic intermittent social stress
- With / without grass silage
- Groups of 3, 6-7 repetitions
- Chronic intermittent social stress =
  - 10 x confrontation with unfamiliar pigs for 30 min
  - 6 x separation for 20 min
- Behavioural observations
  - on 6 days, 9 x 10 min

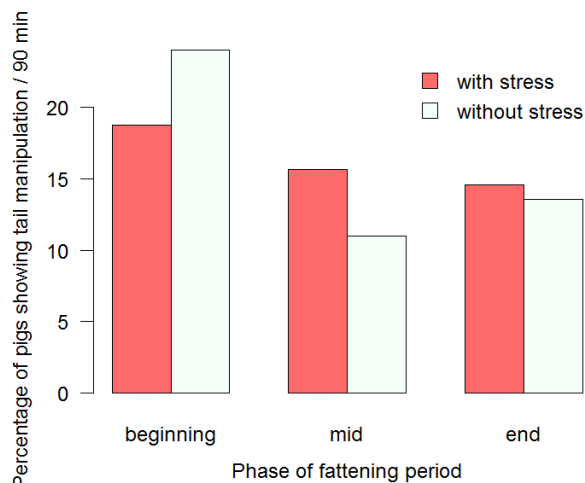
Entire males	Entire males	Entire males	Entire males	Castrated males	Castrated males	Castrated males	Castrated males
	Silage		Silage		Silage		Silage
		Stress	Stress			Stress	Stress

## Today's focus

Entire males	Entire males	Entire males	Entire males	Castrated males	Castrated males	Castrated males	Castrated males
	Silo		Silo		Silo		Silo
		Stress	Stress			Stress	Stress

- Is there a relationship between chronic (intermittent) stress and manipulation behaviour?

## Tail manipulation



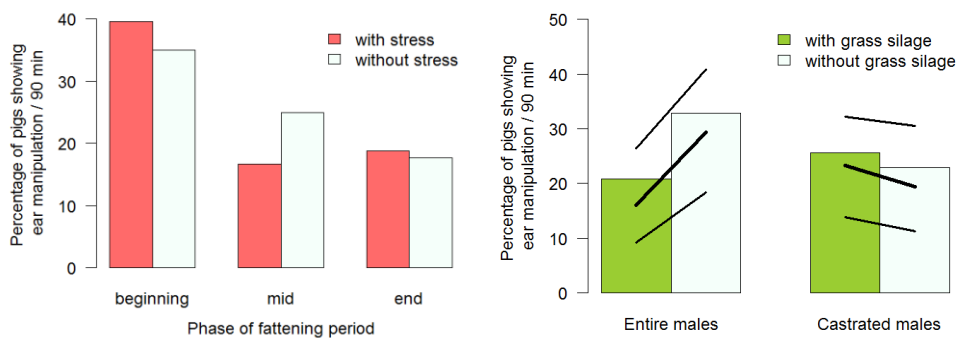
Binary outcome variable

*p-value:*

**All treatment effects and interactions non-significant**

Period < 0.001

## Ear manipulation



Binary outcome variable

*p-value:*

**Castration \* Silage = 0.02**  
 Period < 0.001

## All pig directed manipulations



## Conclusions

- Chronic intermittent social stress **did not** have any influence on manipulation behaviour
  - Duration, frequency, type of stress?
- Provision of grass silage decreased manipulative behaviour
- Effect of grass silage was stronger for entire male pigs
  - Suitable occupational material (or feed ?) especially important for entire male pigs