

KS1: Pig behaviour on the farm

Discuss pig behaviour and the importance of positive experiences to ensure pigs are healthy and happy. In doing so, we can educate future generations about the importance of higher welfare farms.

What learners will be learning

- How we can make pigs happy
- The importance of physical and mental health for pigs
- The value of positive relationships with pigs

Wider learning opportunities

- Discuss human physical and mental health
- Talk about the value of friendship
- Think about the importance of choice in life

Objectives	Learning taking place	Educator notes
Initial assessment	1 Discussion Initial thoughts and feelings around physical and mental health for pigs.	Our lessons are intended for learners to feel empowered to create meaningful positive experiences for animals to live a good life. At the start of each lesson we advise to ask what learners know about each learning objective. We also encourage wider questions such as: - Whether pigs deserve a good life? - How can farmers make animals happier?
Making pigs happy	2 Discussion: What makes us and other people/animals happy. 3 Vote: What farmers should give to pigs on a hot day. 4 Vote: The benefits for giving pigs a wallow.	Opportunity: Challenge difference between 'needs' & 'wants'. Is what we 'want' healthy? Dogs might 'want' chocolate, but this would harm them. Correct: B Correct: A
Importance of physical and mental health for pigs	5 Vote: Pigs root around soil using their noses. 6 Video: How pigs use their noses as a 'tool'. 7 Discuss: The importance of physical and mental health 8 Vocab: Pigs can feel bored similarly to humans. 9 Drag/drop: Natural behaviours are fun for pigs.	Correct: B Opportunity: Some people think keepings pigs as pets is a good idea. What would happen to their gardens in winter? (mud pit!). Opportunity: Do we have good balance of physical and mental health activities? Consider use of digital items as an addiction. Opportunity: Feelings change over time. Boredom can lead to frustration and aggression/depression (both in humans and animals). Correct: Pig friends, scatter food and give straw are fun for pigs. Fighting is bad as pigs have sharp teeth and will hurt each other.
Value of positive relationships with pigs	10 Discuss: We all enjoy different amounts of company at different times. 11 Vote: Farmers should want to have a positive relationship with pigs. 12 Vocab: Pigs feel happy and comforted when they trust people 13 Video: Some farmers want their animals to be healthy and happy	Opportunity: The importance of talking, listening and understanding when other people want to be left alone. Opportunity: The importance of building relationships and trust with other people and animals. Opportunity: The reasons we might need people we can trust in our lives. Sequence: RSPCA assured farmer shows piglets and then thanks the class for learning about pig welfare.
Recap	14 Video: Reflect on content and note any changes in thoughts or feelings.	Reflect back on the first set of questions. Did learners learn anything new about pig behaviour and farmers? Have views changed as to whether pigs deserve a good life? Do learners now know how farmers make pigs happier? If inspired, select one of our practical activities for farm animals from the library. Contact us if learners have their own ideas and we will support with suggestions and new certificates where possible [Education@rspca.org.uk]

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Welcome

Welcome to our lesson all about pigs and how farmers give them positive experiences and choices in their lives for normal behaviour.


Think about how you would feel if you were a pig throughout this lesson.




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In this lesson you will be able to think about:



Why pigs lay in mud



How pigs use their noses



The friendship between pigs and farmers


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Animal welfare scientists want to make animals happier.

What makes you happy in life?

Do you think these also make other people and animals happy?



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It is hot on the farm today.

What should the farmer give these pigs to stay cool?


Select one or more options

A. Sun cream

B. A wallow (muddy puddle)

That's right!

Sun cream sounds difficult to put on pigs (and mud is more natural for them).



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Pigs enjoy laying in wallows. It keeps them cool. What other benefits are there for pigs laying in wallows?


Select one or more options

A. Mud protects their skin from the sun

B. It's a tasty drink

That's right!

Pigs enjoy laying in a wallow on a hot day (we should provide pigs with fresh water to drink).



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Pigs naturally use their noses a bit like a shovel for soil. Do you know what this behaviour is called?

Select one or more options


Booping

Rooting

Snooting

That's right!

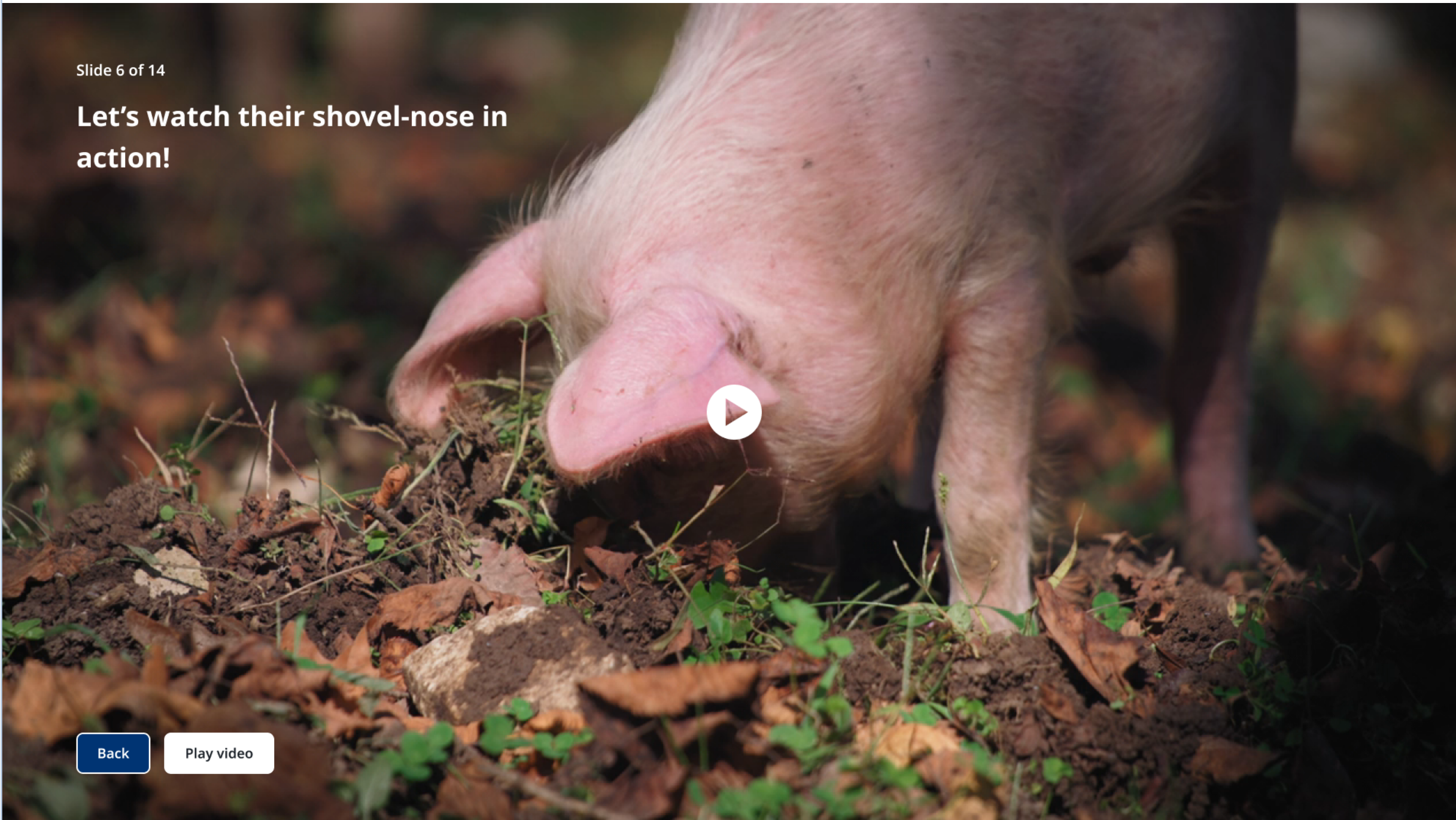
Pigs naturally search for roots to eat that are found under the soil, using their keen sense of smell (some people also use pigs to search for an expensive mushroom called a truffle).



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Let's watch their shovel-nose in action!




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At times, we must stay inside our houses (if we are ill, if it is too hot, or if it is too cold).

What would you do to keep yourself busy?

Do these activities take care of both your physical AND mental health?



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Sometimes farmers have to keep pigs inside and give them things to do. How would pigs feel if they had nothing to do while staying inside?

Your answer
Placeholder

We said 'bored'
Pigs are smart animals that need to spend time using their brains. Over time, boredom could lead to frustration, so we should give them something to do.
Do you agree?







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Which of these would you give a pig so they can stay entertained?

Fun for pigs Bad for pigs


Provide them with other pig friends Let them fight Scatter food on a clean floor Give straw to root around in

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Having the correct company is important for all of us.

Some of us like to be around lots of people.
Some of us like to spend time by ourselves.
Do you have a preference? Or do you enjoy both?



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What sort of relationship do you think farmers want to have with pigs?

Select one or more options

Positive (pigs become friendly towards humans)
 Neutral (pigs are unsure about humans)
 Negative (pigs are scared of humans)

That's right!
Farmers want to have a positive relationship with their pigs, as that will make both of them happier.




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Farmers regularly check the health of pigs. It is also a great opportunity to say hello and build trust. How do you think this will make pigs feel?

Your answer
Placeholder

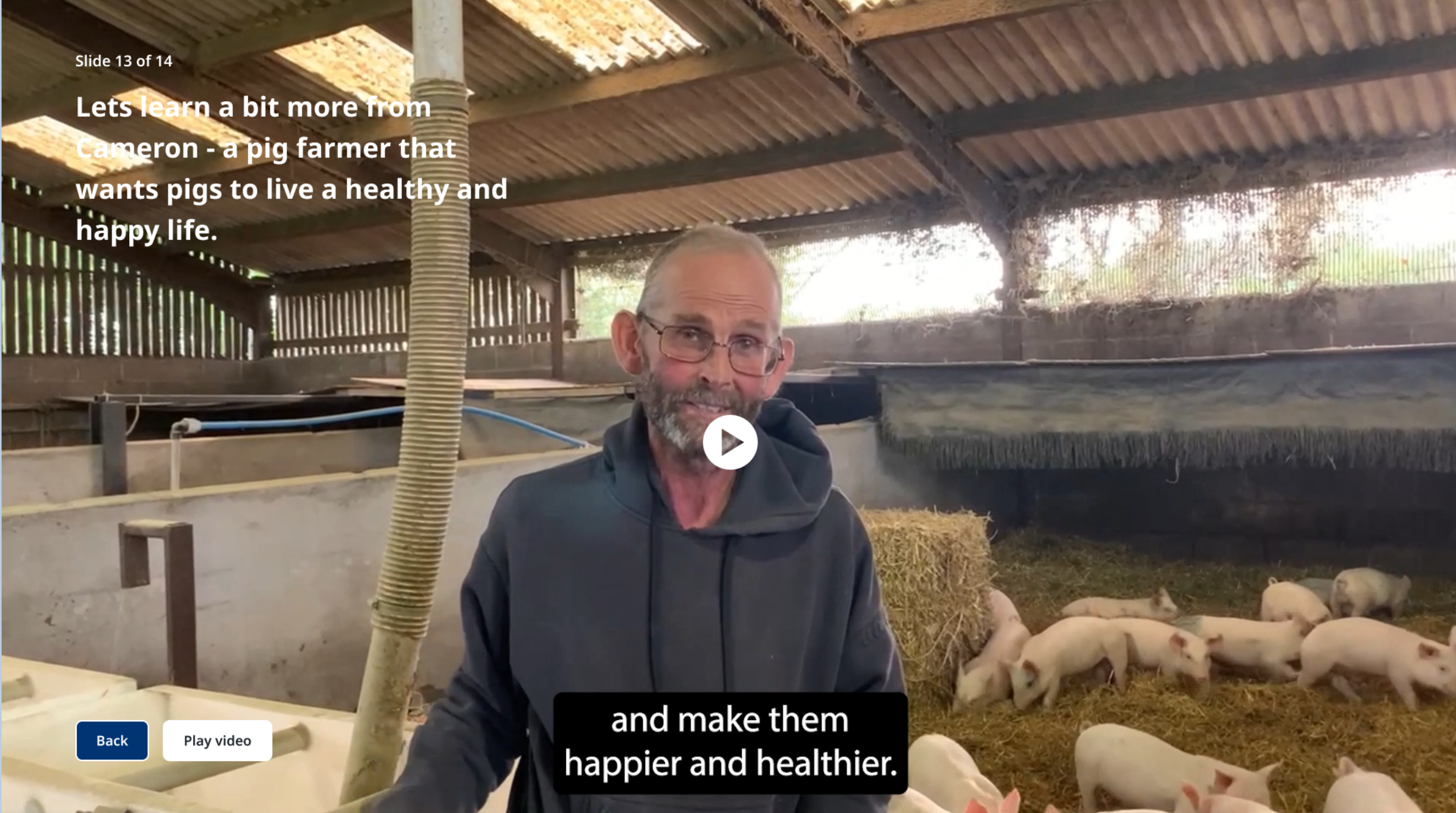
We said 'happy'
We think it makes pigs feel comforted to know farmers are someone they can trust. Pigs might also feel excited to see someone they view as their friend.
Do you agree?



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Let's learn a bit more from Cameron - a pig farmer that wants pigs to live a healthy and happy life.



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and make them happier and healthier.

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Let's review what you have learned today. Can you remember? Use the videos for clues!



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End of lesson

Thank you for learning about pig welfare!

Explore our library for practical animal welfare ideas and certificates.



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