# Piglet Castration in Germany

**Striving towards a complete renunciation**

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| 29 September 2008 | „Düsseldorf Declaration“ on the joint renunciation of piglet castration  
In their declaration, the Deutsche Bauernverband (German Farmers Association), the Verband der Fleischwirtschaft (Association of the Meat Industry) and the Hauptverband des Deutschen Einzelhandels (Association of German Retailers) declare to abandon the castration of piglets in pig production, a common objective of all economic operators. |
| January 2009 | Foundation of the QS coordination platform „Renouncing piglet castration“  
In order to fulfill the prerequisites for the complete renunciation, QS sets up a coordination platform. It consists of deputies from all stages of the supply chain; scientific experts; veterinarians; representatives from the German animal protection organization *Deutscher Tierschutz Bund* and as well a member from the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection.  
Topic-specific working groups in the areas of odour detection, animal husbandry, breeding as well as processing and marketing work on solutions for boar fattening. |
| 1 April 2009 | Obligatory use of pain killers in the QS scheme  
The use of suitable painkillers when surgically castrating piglets becomes an obligatory requirement in the QS scheme and is inspected during the QS-audit. Since 1st of January 2011, this is a KO requirement, meaning that a farmer will loose its eligibility of delivery when castrating pigs without using painkillers. |
| December 2010 | European declaration on piglet castration  
Besides twenty five other stakeholders from meat industry, food retailers, scientists, veterinarians and animal welfare NGOs, the Deutsche Bauernverband (DBV), the Verband der Fleischwirtschaft (VDF) and the Hauptverband des Deutschen Einzelhandels (HDE) sign the European Declaration on alternatives to surgical castration of pigs. They thereby commit to voluntarily end surgical castration of pigs in Europe latest by 1st of January 2018. |
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Different projects with commercial partners, some co-financed by the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection are running at the same time in Germany

- Sensory panel for boar meat to study the acceptance of boar meat and boar meat products
- Research project on the genetic determinants for boar taint
- Reduction of odor variation by appropriate breeding
- Feeding strategies to influence the development of Skatol
- Field trials of husbandry and management of young boars
- Market impact of boar fattening taking into account the fat and meat quality
- Development of an electronic method for the detection of boar taint at the slaughter line
- Framework for the human nose detection of boar taint in the slaughter house

Economic importance
Currently each week between 35,000 and 40,000 entire boars are slaughtered in Germany. The fattening of entire boars experiences growing economic importance. Different field studies and research projects address the feeding influences as well as strategies with regard to animal husbandry, management as well as marketing of boar meat.