## Who is the sow?

### The sow is an incredible mother, who is able to juggle more than 10 piglets at once

The domesticated pig is a subspecies of the wild boar. Pigs have an average lifespan of 20 years but in commercial settings are usually culled after 2 to 3 litters, meaning around 2 to 2.5 years of age



## How does the sow spend her day?

## Taking care of her young

# **Sleeping and** Resting

### Nest building

## Foraging and Rooting

## What does the sow want?

Eating and drinking

Socialising

Wallowing

Comfortable and clean places to lie down

Shelter for protection

Sufficient light to see and explore her surroundings

> Long fibers to feel full througout the day

Interacting with and nurturing her young

Sows need at least 6 hours of continuous darkness to get enough rest

Sows should always be able to rest undisturbed, but should spend most of their time awake being active, foraging and socialising

Wallowing To cool down and keep clean and comfortable

Eating and Drinking It is important to provide them with a wellbalanced diet and sufficient water points

Foraging and Rooting Domesticated pigs do not need to forage for food, but like to spend a lot of their time exploring

They are caring, gentle and dedicated mothers

Socialising Sows compete to establish hierarchies, but love spending time with each other

Easy access to good feed and water

Space to exercise, escape and socialise

Material and soil to root around in

Keeping busy by exploring a varied environment

> Wallowing in a refreshing bath and scratching her back

### Sleeping

Resting

### Taking care of their young

### Sows are highly intelligent animals that enjoy exploring! and talking with each other

They can strategise about how to outcompete their friends in foraging situations

They dream too!

They can interpret gestures and visual symbols

posture

# How can we provide sows with a good quality of life?



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## What do sows think?

