Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0168-1591(17)30008-4

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.applanim.2017.01.003

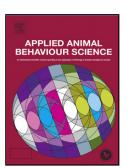
Reference: APPLAN 4390

To appear in: APPLAN

Received date: 4-8-2016 Revised date: 27-12-2016 Accepted date: 8-1-2017

Please cite this article as: Hansen, Christian F., Hales, Janni, Weber, Pernille M., Edwards, Sandra A., Moustsen, Vivi A., Confinement of sows 24hours before expected farrowing affects the performance of nest building behaviours but not progress of parturition. Applied Animal Behaviour Science http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2017.01.003

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Confinement of sows 24 hours before expected farrowing affects the

performance of nest building behaviours but not progress of parturition

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Highlights

Loose sows spent more time performing nest building behaviours than confined sows

Loose housed sows were standing or walking more than confined sows

Housing did not affect duration of farrowing or birth intervals

In this study crating modified nest building behaviour but to a rather limited extent

Abstract

The effects of confinement prior to farrowing on the performance of nest building behaviour and

progress of parturition were investigated using hyper prolific sows. Forty first parity and 41

second/third parity sows were allocated to one of two treatments: loose housed (40) or confined (41).

All sows had free access to a straw rack with long stemmed straw and were housed in a freedom

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