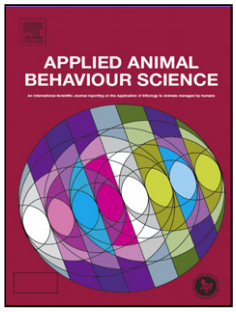

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PII: S0168-1591(17)30008-4
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.applanim.2017.01.003
Reference: APPLAN 4390

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

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