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Emotional states and emotional contagion in pigs after exposure to a positive and negative treatment

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Highlights

- Emotions of pigs were investigated after a positive and negative event.
- Emotions of their pen mates, not subjected to these events, were studied as well.
- After the negative event, pigs still appeared to be in a negative state.
- Interestingly, the pen mates also seemed to be emotionally affected.
- Negative and positive events may thus have carryover effects.

Abstract

After-effects of events that elicit an emotional state on both the animals that experienced these events and on their group members have only scarcely been studied. We investigated effects of a positive vs. negative treatment on the behaviour and emotional state of pigs and their naive pen mates afterwards. Behaviour of 96 pigs was observed in the home pen for 5 min on two different days (day 2 and 18), directly after two pigs per pen (N=16) had been

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