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Pre-weaning environmental enrichment increases piglets' object play behaviour on a large scale commercial pig farm

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Highlights

- Housing of neonatal piglets was enriched with substrate or hanging objects
- Environmental enrichment enhanced object play behaviour during lactation
- Neonatal enrichment had no impact on piglet growth during lactation and weaning
- Piglets which had received substrate did not show elevated cortisol at weaning

Abstract

Environmental enrichment is a legal requirement for European pig farms. The suitability of enrichment materials for neonatal pigs is understudied and has not been tested in commercial settings. This study investigates the effect of hanging objects and substrate as two enrichment strategies pre-weaning, and compares the effect of these enrichment objects on play behaviour, aggression, growth and stress

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