

Céline TALLET*

A. BRILLOUET, M.-C. MEUNIER-SALAUN, V. PAULMIER, A. PRUNIER

REARING ENTIRE MALE PIGS IN BARREN OR ENRICHED HOUSING: CONSEQUENCES ON THE HUMAN-ANIMAL RELATIONSHIP

INRA -Agrocampus Ouest, UMR1079 Systèmes d'Élevage Nutrition Animale et Humaine, F-35590 Saint-Gilles, France

**celine.tallet@rennes.inra.fr*



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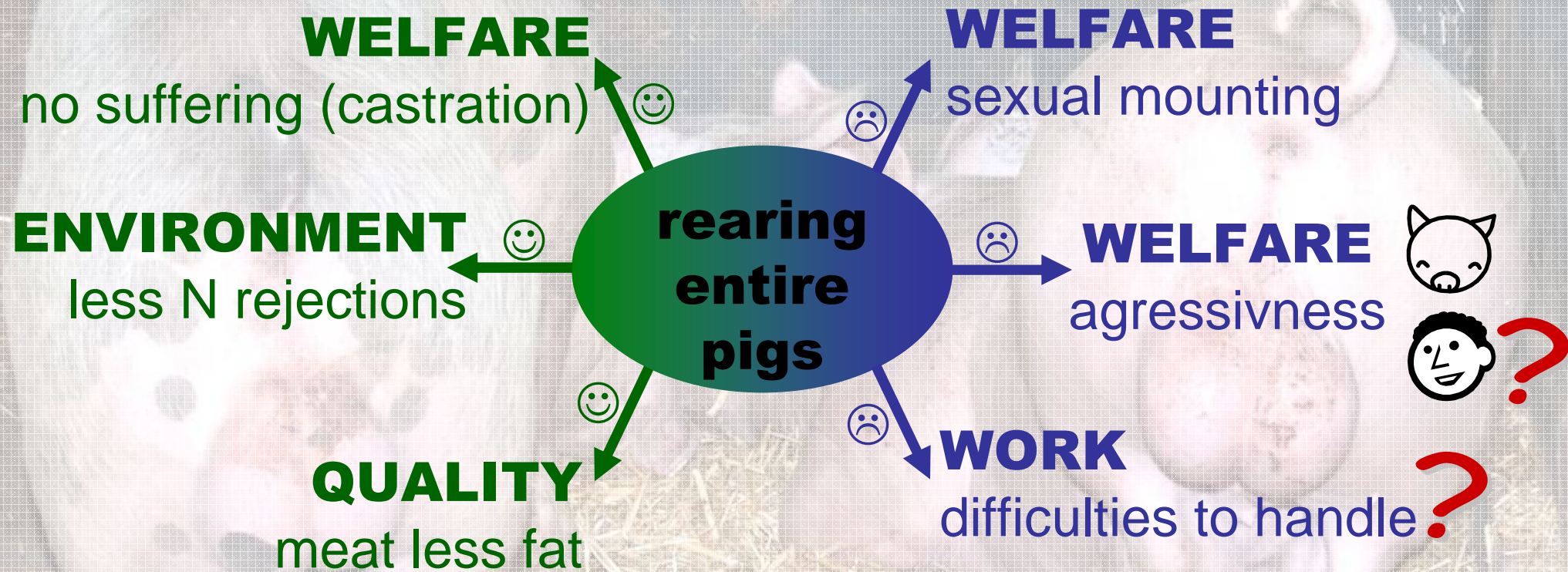
■ Surgical castration: intense and acute pain, distress



■ For animal welfare reasons: ban surgical castration

■ One solution = rearing of entire males

some consequences of rearing entire male pigs



Is rearing entire male pigs negative for the relationship between pigs and humans?



solution to behavioural problems: enriching the environment?

- environmental enrichment ↗ welfare
- environmental enrichment ↘ human-animal relationship?
 - outdoor rearing → sows indoor approach sooner humans than sows reared outdoor (*Marchant et al, 2003*)
 - long term enrichment: space + straw → difficult to move (*Geverink et al, 1999*)

objectives

■ Consequences on the human-animal relationship of

- rearing entire male pigs
- enriching the environment

- reaction to handling (manageability) ?
- perception of humans



animals and rearing environments

- 8 groups of 10 males (from 3 to 5 mo of age)

castrates*
barren

entires
barren

castrates*
enriched

entires
enriched



1m²/a



2.5m²/a



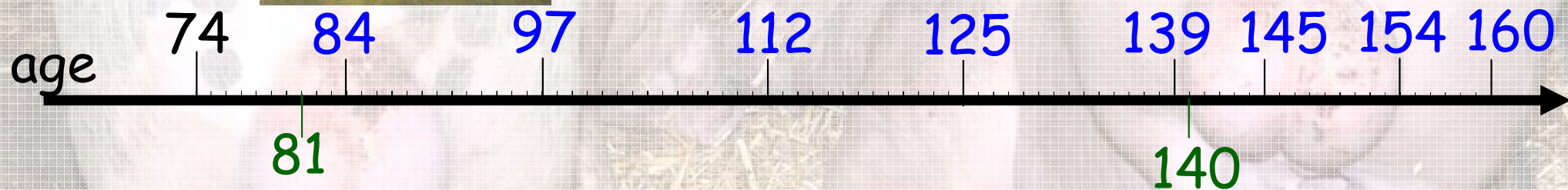
outdoor run

**with anesthesia*

measures of the manageability and perception of humans



- ✗ Entrance into the weighing cage:
 - 0 = animal entered by itself
 - 1 = a person had to push the animal



- ✗ Response to the presence of an unfamiliar person in a new environment
- ✗ Time taken to move the animal to the test pen.

measure of the perception of humans

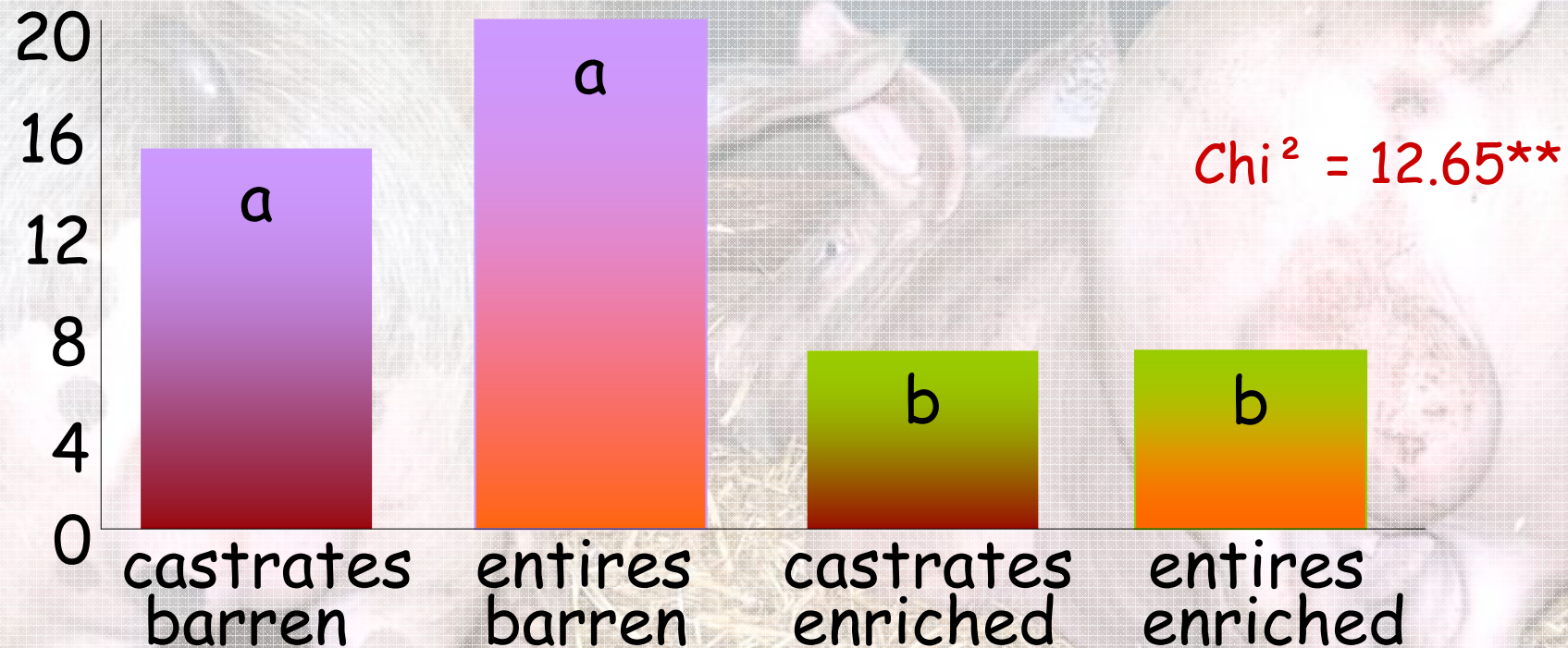


- ➡ Exploration
- ➡ Locomotion
- ➡ Vocalisations

- ➡ Soft contact to the person
- ➡ Aggressivity to the person

manageability - *weighting cage*

■ Percentage of entrances when animals where pushed



Environmental enrichment increases manageability during weighting

manageability - *displacement*

■ Mean time (s) taken to move the animals

■ $18.9s \pm 1.1s$

■ No effect of non castration $p=0.7$

■ No effect of environment $p=0.18$

■ No interaction $p=0.7$

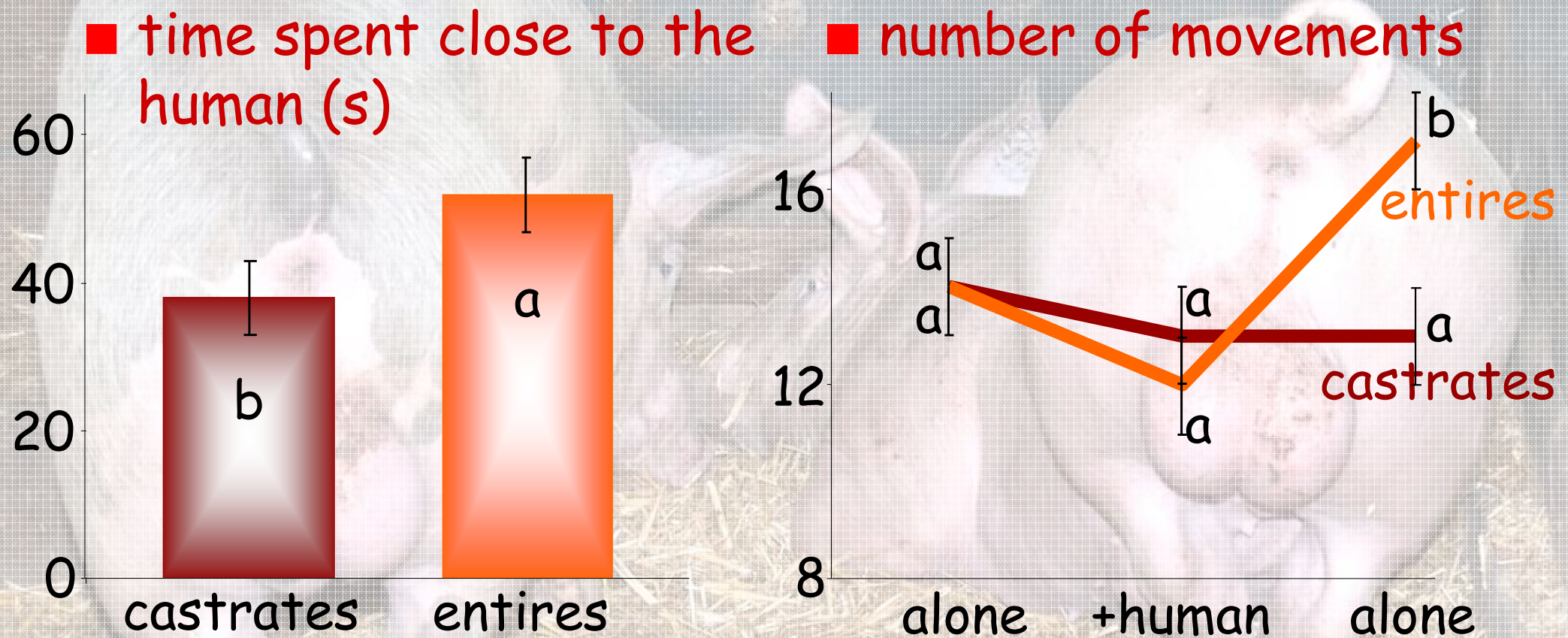


time (s) taken to move the animals
not affected

perception of humans - *age and interaction*

- Age: ↗ the attraction to the human
 - ➡ ⇨ latencies to approach and contact softly
 - ➡ ⇨ time spent close to the human and in soft contact
- No aggressiveness toward the unfamiliar human
- Almost no interaction "non castration" x "environment"
 - ➡ only for displacements at 80 days of age

perception of humans - *effets of non castration, 80 days old*



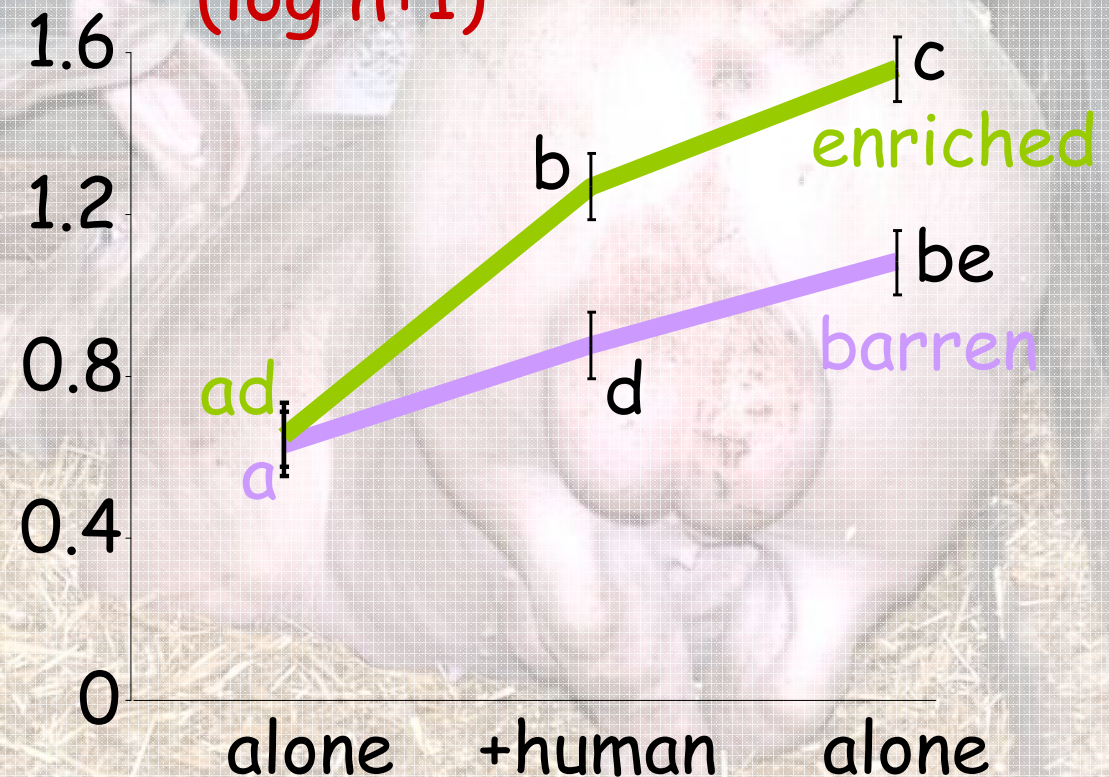
Entire males more attracted by humans at 80 days of age

perception of humans - *effets of environment*

■ time spent close to the human (s)



■ number of vocalisations (log n+1)



Less attraction and more reaction to the human in the enriched environment

rearing entire male pigs ?

- Manageability: no effect here
- Aggressivity: not observed here
 - ➡ What would happen in the home pen?
- Perception of humans: better than castrates at young age
 - ➡ *habituation to humans or repetition of the test?*



Rearing entire pigs does not seem to be negative for the human-animal relationship

entire male pigs in enriched housing ?

- No modification specific to entire males
- For all pigs, with an enrichment:
 - ➡ Manageability increased during weighting not during moving
 - ✱ ≠ Geverink et al, 1999
 - ➡ Perception of humans seems less positive (less attraction, stress reaction)
 - ✱ = Marchant et al, 2003



Space and floor enrichment may decrease the attractiveness to human beings

thanks for your attention



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