

LHWB, 27/03, p17

[Reply] Harvesting and sale of pig's blood prohibited in Singapore

We thank Mr Wilson for his feedback on "Banning of Pig's Blood" (LHWB, 12/03/13).

2 Blood has high moisture and protein content and can easily support the growth of bacteria. Unhygienic harvesting of blood can result in the introduction of food borne pathogens into blood food products. Specialised equipment and additional sanitary controls are required to harvest blood safely during slaughter. Other requirements include facilities for traceability and disposal of blood harvested from pigs that are unfit for consumption, as well as for the cold chain management of blood food products. The local abattoir licensed by AVA to supply pork products to consumers does not have such facilities and controls. Hence AVA does not allow the harvesting and sale of pig's blood from our local abattoir.

3 There have been reported cases of food poisoning and deaths resulting from eating undercooked contaminated pig's blood in other countries. For example, *Streptococcus suis* bacteria is commonly found in pigs and has been closely associated with past infection of human cases in Vietnam, where people have consumed inadequately cooked pig blood paste and cakes. In humans, the bacteria causes meningitis, septicaemia and can lead to death in severe cases.

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for Chief Executive Officer
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Original letter and translation

LHWP, 12/03, P11

[Letter] Banning pig's blood an overreaction?

The author wrote that although the consumption of pig's blood is banned in Singapore due to health/hygiene issues, Singaporeans can still consume pig's blood food products in neighbouring countries such as Taiwan, Hong Kong and China. The author remarked that for the past decades, he has not heard of news of people in these countries falling ill due to the consumption of cooked pig's blood and assumed that such products are safe for consumption. He then questioned if the ban on pig's blood food products in Singapore is an overreaction.

禁猪血过敏了?

老一辈的多不会忘记猪血的美味，然因为卫生问题，新加坡已几十年来未见猪血了，但国人仍可在邻国与台湾、香港或中国大陆吃到猪血食品，纳闷于那么多年以来，从未听过陆、港、台与邻国有人吃煮熟猪血染病的新闻（生吃猪血另当别论），所以猪血熟煮应没问题，我们是不是太过敏了呢？

• Wilson