Exploratory behaviour of pigs in the initial period of fattening

Summary

Exploratory behaviours of pigs, starting fattening at different ages were investigated (6 and 10 weeks). In the total time of observation, exploratory behaviours during the first day of fattening accounted for 14.44% to 33.32%. On the mentioned day, animals from almost all groups spent most of their time moving and playing (30.13% to 81.37%). This behavioural form was particularly noticeable among younger and older pigs that had similar body weights and were kept in pens of 10. On the second day of observation, the proportion of exploratory behaviours decreased, what in total observation time was accounted for 9.17% in older pigs that had similar body weights and were kept in pens of 10 and for 29.00% in younger animals that had similar body weights and were kept in pens of 20. On the both third and seventh day of living in the pen, animals that started fattening at 6 weeks of age spent more time rooting in litter, whereas older animals spent more time moving and playing. On the twenty-first day of fattening, exploratory behaviours ranged from 11.16% to 23.66%. On this day of fattening, the smallest amount of behaviours defined as „other” was observed.