# Stress management expertise in relation to modern animal farming

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Stress is always present in modern farming and even if some efficient management conditions can decrease the level stress, some others will definitely increase it. Stressors can be classified in different categories as explained in our previous article. Social stressors resulting from the interactions with individuals of the same species (high density, re-allotment) and stressors related to handling by humans, weaning and transport can be particularly difficult for the animals. There are many consequences to stress in animal production and lower profits will eventually be one of them. However, reducing the negative effects of stress is still possible, especially with an approach focused on individual "Better-Being". Helping animals to cope with stress is a benefit proposed by an innovative sensory solution developed by Phodé. Tested under the various defined stress conditions typically found in husbandry, this solution modulates stress perception thanks to a cerebral mode of action.
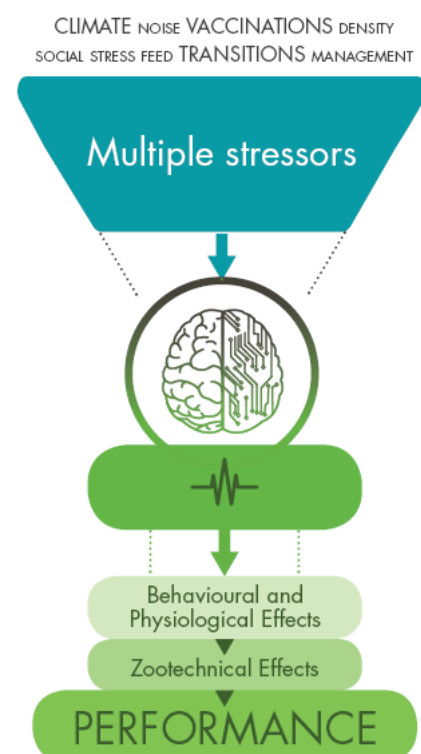
Confrontations between animals during regrouping is unavoidable, but should not result in injury.

Another example of social stress is observed when establishing hierarchy after mixing unfamiliar animals. In pigs, aggression occurs as a natural behavior, it ranges from threats to confrontations which can provoke injuries.

The use of VeO when regrouping pigs, for example, does not reduce the frequency of confrontations between the animals. In fact, we even observe a slight increase at the outset (Table 1). However, the duration of these confrontations is reduced, and the lesions observed are also less severe, which means the animals recover much more quickly. This is yet another example of VeO working with nature by fine tuning its mechanisms. The hierarchy settles more quickly and reduces the confrontations harmful effects (Table 2)

Table 1: Confrontational behaviour observed over the 2 days following regrouping.

	Control	VeO	P
Day 0 = Mixing days			
Confrontations (freq /4 hrs)	14.1 x	21.5 y	0.072
Average duration of confrontations	1.24 x	1.02 y	0.070
Day 1			
Confrontations (freq /4 hrs)	14.0	12.0	0.308
Average duration of confrontations	1.2 a	0.9 b	0.001

x,y, p<0.10

Table 2: Percentage of animals with new skin lesions (%)

Days	Control	VeO	p
n =	28	28	
D0	22.0	20.1	0.944
D1	88.6	91.6	0.302
D2	66.1a	41.0b	0.019
D3	63.0a	11.3b	0.000

a, b, p< 0.05