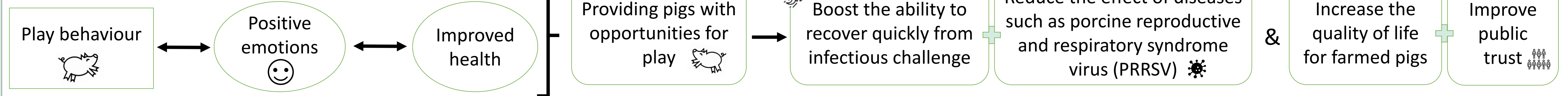


Rearing pigs with play opportunities: the effects on disease resilience in pigs experimentally inoculated with PRRSV

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1. Introduction & Objective



Objective: To explore the effect of rearing pigs with play opportunities on disease resilience when challenged with PRRSV.

2. Methods

Control treatment (CON): n=4 litters, mean: 13 pigs/litter
Standard farrowing pen (0.3 m²/pig), no play opportunities

Play treatment (PLY): n=5 litters, mean: 15 pigs/litter
Rearred with play opportunities from 5 days of age
Play promoted for 3 hours/day: extra space (0.5 m²/pig) and enrichment

BT: Coping style test: High, Medium, Low-resisting pigs

Pigs chosen for disease challenge: 14 pigs/treatment, 7 pigs/pen
• matched for similar weight and balanced for sex, sow, BT score

CON in disease challenge facility: (pen: 0.5 m²/pig)

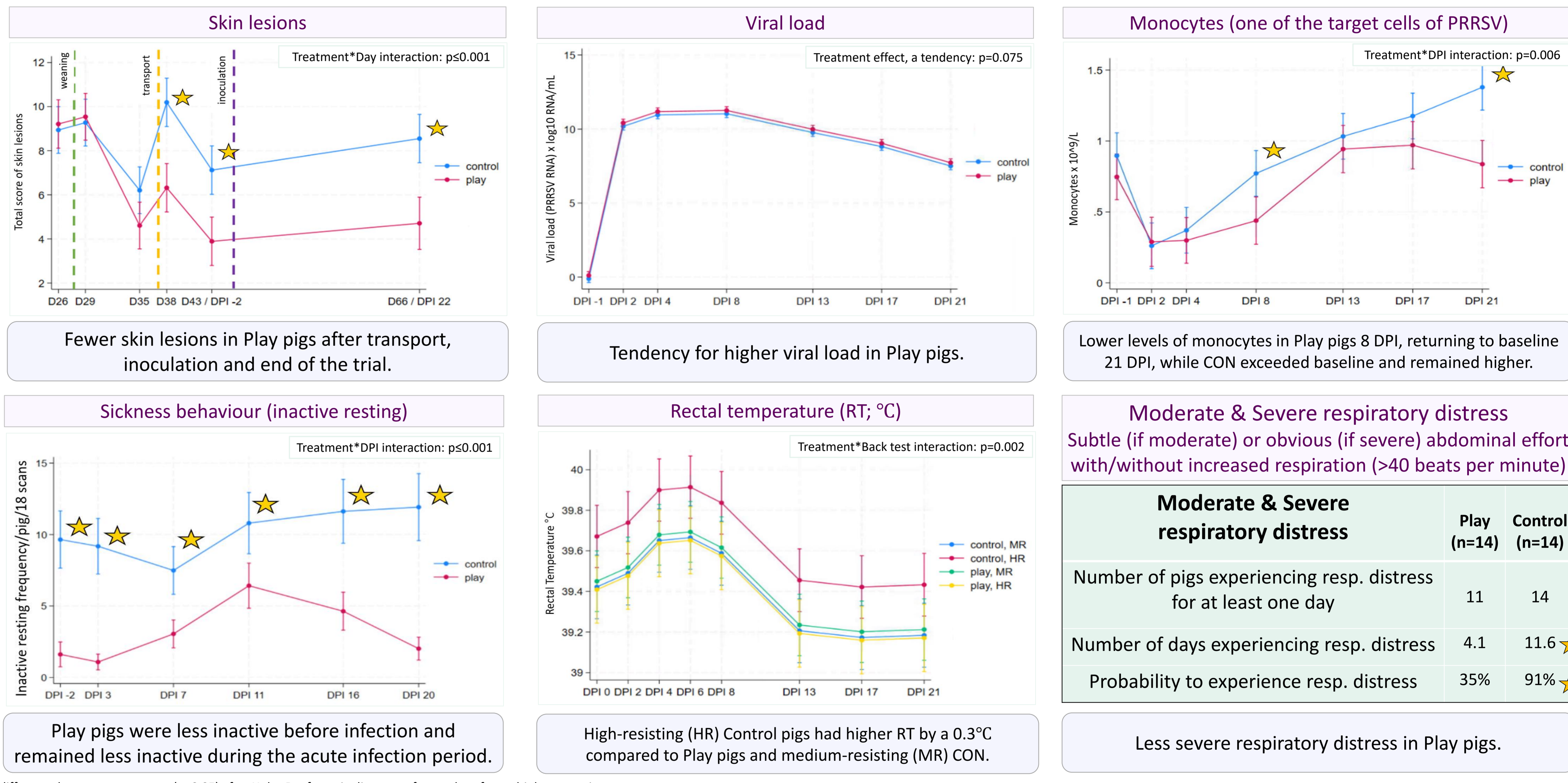
PLY in disease challenge facility: (pen + extra space for play: 1.3 m²/pig)

Euthanasia

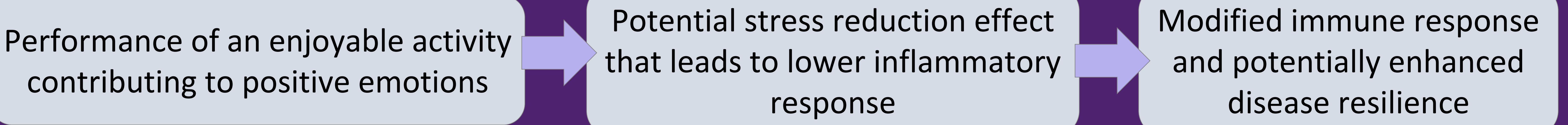
Measures post-infection: Average daily gain, rectal temperature, respiratory distress, blood collection for viral load and blood cells, play and sickness behaviour, skin lesions (pre&post-infection)

3. Results

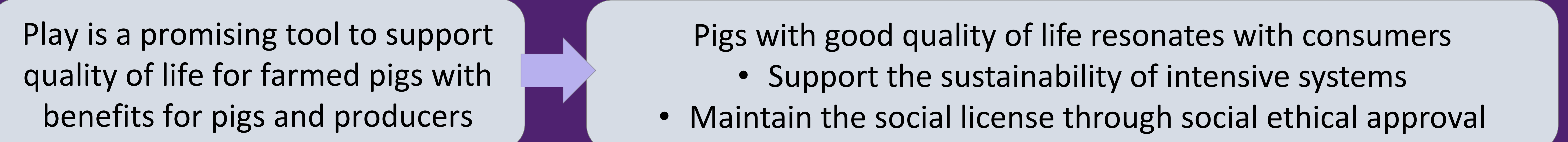
Play opportunities changed response to behavioural, immune and production measures before and after PRRSV infection.



4. Conclusions



5. Implications



Thanks to our funders



Thanks for the facility use

