Step 1  
Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in accordance with your farm’s safety protocol when interacting with boars.  
• Ear plugs (recommended)  
• Dust masks (recommended)  
• Gloves (recommended)  
• Steel toed boots (recommended)  
• Sorting boards (recommended)  
□ Make sure the sorting board fits easily down the hallway so it doesn’t snag or trip you.  
□ Make sure the sorting board is not too narrow or it will limit your ability to guide the boar.  
• Knee pads (suggested)  
• Bump caps (suggested)  
• Safety glasses (suggested)  

Step 2  
Understand the procedure for moving the boar from his stall to the collection area.  
• Only move one boar at a time to prevent opportunities for fighting.  
• Prepare the pathway and pick up any obstacles, such as feed that has spilled onto or close to the pathway, that could distract the boar.  
• Regularly clean the aisle to remove feces and other slipping and tripping hazards.  
• When you release the boar from his stall, stand behind the stall gate and safely move the boar forward out of his stall.  
• If you need to encourage the boar to exit the stall, use a sorting board to protect yourself while you guide him out. Or, have a team member encourage him from behind and step back to allow the boar a clear path forward.  
□ Eventually, the boar will learn that leaving his stall to go to the collection pen is a positive event.

Step 3  
Notify a supervisor if a boar’s behavior is aggressive or unpredictable.  
• If you are uncomfortable moving a boar because he exhibits aggressive behavior, report him.  
• Use caution and strongly consider culling a boar who has behaved aggressively.  
• Follow your farm’s protocol for aggressive boar culling when applicable.  

Step 4  
Understand that untrained boars may need more guidance and training than older boars.  
• Be patient with younger boars.  
• Give time to explore the environment the first time they are moved through the barn.  
• Their flight zones will be larger until they feel comfortable in the new environment, so apply pressure and release appropriately.  
• Limit distractions by preparing the hallway before movement.  

Step 5  
Know how to position yourself safely when in a pen with a boar.  
• Never work alone when training boars in isolation.  
• Employees should work in teams of two when working with boars.  
• Never turn your back on a boar.  
• Always carry a sorting board to guide boars to the dummy.
Safe Pig Handling

Standard Operating Procedure

Semen Collection  
& Boar Stud Safety

Identify normal calm boar behavior and normal mating behavior.

Normal behavior
• Most time is spent eating, drinking, sleeping, and rubbing against the stall.
• Muscles and posture will be relaxed

Mating behavior
• Dominating other boars to ensure they are first to mate
• Using aggression to secure dominance
• Salivating
• Chomping
• Vocalizing
• Attempting to mount and nudge objects representing the female with his snout or the side of his head

Identify aggressive boar behavior.

• Muscle tension
• Chomping or popping of jaw
• Making eye contact
• Swinging the head
• Bowing head while holding gaze and pointing tusks toward potential victim
• Leaning back in a stiff legged stance

• Confronting and sniffing, poking, or jabbing other boars
• Hair on the shoulders or along the spine standing on end
• Charging forward

Stay safe during times of elevated libido.

• Move one boar at a time.
• Never let your guard down when boars are calm or exhibiting normal breeding behavior.
• Keep a sorting board with you to protect yourself from normal breeding behavior, and never stand where you may become trapped.
• When boars become aggressive, dominant or competitive, stay behind your sorting board and move to a safe spot as quickly as possible without turning your back on a boar.
• If boars are competing, dominating, or expressing aggression toward you or another boar, get out of the pen or aisle immediately.

Know how to exit dangerous situations.

• If the boar becomes aggressive, get to safety as quickly as possible.
• If you can’t get out quickly, protect yourself by holding a sorting board between you and the boar while moving backwards to safety.
• Some pens are designed with vertical slats so people can easily move to safety if needed.
• Never turn your back on a boar.
• If a pig charges and you do not have a sorting board or easy means of escape, a quick sidestep or side leap may avoid a head-on charge and potential swing of the tusks.

Know what to do in the case of personal injury.

• Call for help to immediately notify others of your situation.
• Work to remove yourself from the situation.
• If you are impaled by a tusk, try to remain standing at all costs.
  □ People who fall to the ground typically sustain more serious injuries.
Step 11  Understand and follow all safety guidelines in collection pens and stalls.

- Evaluate the dummy for stability and the need for repairs prior to collection.
- Position yourself to the side of the boar and dummy.
- For a trained boar, stand back and allow the boar to go through his routine prior to mounting the dummy.
- Keep distractions to a minimum and let the boar focus on his task.
- Wear two pairs of gloves to prevent bacterial contamination of the semen.
- Have your cup warmer ready for collection.
- Approach and ejaculate the boar after he is mounted.
- Be aware of the boar’s changing moods or behavior. It is important that you do not drop your guard.
- If you use hormonal injections, follow safety precautions for the use of hormonal products.
  □ Women of childbearing age and persons with respiratory problems should exercise extreme caution when handling hormones.

Step 12  Be safe during routine health and wellness events.

- Boars should be active, in good body condition, and have no lameness.
  □ Check for lesions near the prepuce or testes or across the body.
  □ If a boar needs treatment, take care of him immediately.
- Follow your farm’s treatment and vaccination plan.
- Safely gather diagnostics per your veterinarian’s protocol.
- Many farms gather diagnostics during semen collection with no additional restraint.
- If you need to snare the boar to gather diagnostics, be sure to use a longer functional snare and hook the snare behind the canine teeth.
  □ If the snare is not behind the canines, it could slip out of the boar’s mouth and injure you.

Step 13  Understand and follow all safe culling and transport practices.

- Culling programs should be implemented and understood.
  □ Cull older or dangerous boars.
  □ Some systems choose to euthanize boars on-site, while others send them to market.
  □ Only ship healthy boars.
  □ Any lame, sick, or aggressive boars should be euthanized on-site.
- If your farm sends boars to market, use a sorting board to load them one at a time.
- If possible, use a trailer that separates each boar to prevent fighting during transport.
- Depending on your farm’s protocol, regular de-tusking according to your veterinarian’s protocol may be allowed to facilitate movement and safety.
- The driver should always be TQA certified and use a sorting panel for unloading.