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Introduction

Surgical castration of male piglets without anaesthesia is performed routinely by farmers or veterinarians in Western Balkan countries to eliminate the risk of boar taint in pork meat. The aim of the study was to investigate consumers' attitudes towards surgical castration of piglets in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H) and Macedonia.

Materials and methods

A representative consumer survey was carried out in these three countries in 2017. Over twelve hundred (1,287) questionnaires were answered by pork eaters. Likert scale data were considered as ordinal values and non-parametric statistical tests have been used since data were not normally distributed. Mann-Whitney U test has been performed to compare the statements between genders and age and Kruskal-Wallis H test between countries ($p=0.05$).

Table 1 Attitudes among consumers from three Western Balkan countries about surgical castration of boars

Attitudes	Serbia	B&H	Macedonia
Meat from castrated pigs is of better quality	(4.6±1.3)	(4.5±1.1)	(4.8±1.5)
Meat from castrated pigs is more expensive	(4.4±1.1)	(4.5±1.0)	(3.9±1.3)
Castration is not necessary	(4.7±1.1)	(4.9±0.9)	(3.6±1.6)
Surgical castration produces pain to the animal	(5.2±1.2)	(5.2±1.2)	(5.2±1.2)

Likert scale: (1) "Disagree very strongly", (2) "Disagree strongly", (3) "Disagree", (4) "No opinion", (5) "Agree", (6) "Agree strongly", (7) "Agree very strongly"



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