

Ecstasy causes depression in pigs

Danish scientific experiments where Ecstasy was administered to pigs may help to explain depression in humans abusing the drug.

The three-year study conducted at the PET Center at Aarhus Hospital in Denmark showed the recreational drug caused depression in laboratory pigs, reported The Copenhagen Post Friday.

The scientists injected pigs with varying doses of Ecstasy to study the effect the drug has on the pigs' brains.

Pigs' brains are similar to human brains.

"We have proven that Ecstasy releases serotonin in the brain, which we know plays a role in depression," said Dr. Aage Kristian Olsen at Aarhus Hospital. "Ecstasy users risk depression given its long-term effects on the brain."

The scientists noted that pigs on Ecstasy lost control of their body temperature, an effect also seen in human overdose fatalities, Olsen said.

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