

Keeping Your 4-H Pigs Healthy



Amy Woods, DVM
Rensselaer Swine Services

Getting New Pigs

- Often pigs come from different sources or sales where pigs have been mixed with other pigs from different sources
 - Pigs from different sources have been exposed to different diseases
- Best to isolate new pigs
- Can treat pigs with antibiotics as a precaution
 - Discuss with your veterinarian

History

- Find out what (if any) vaccines your pigs have had already
- If not vaccinated, or unknown, you may want to vaccinate pigs when you get them
 - Mycoplasma
 - Erysipelas
 - Swine Influenza virus (SIV)

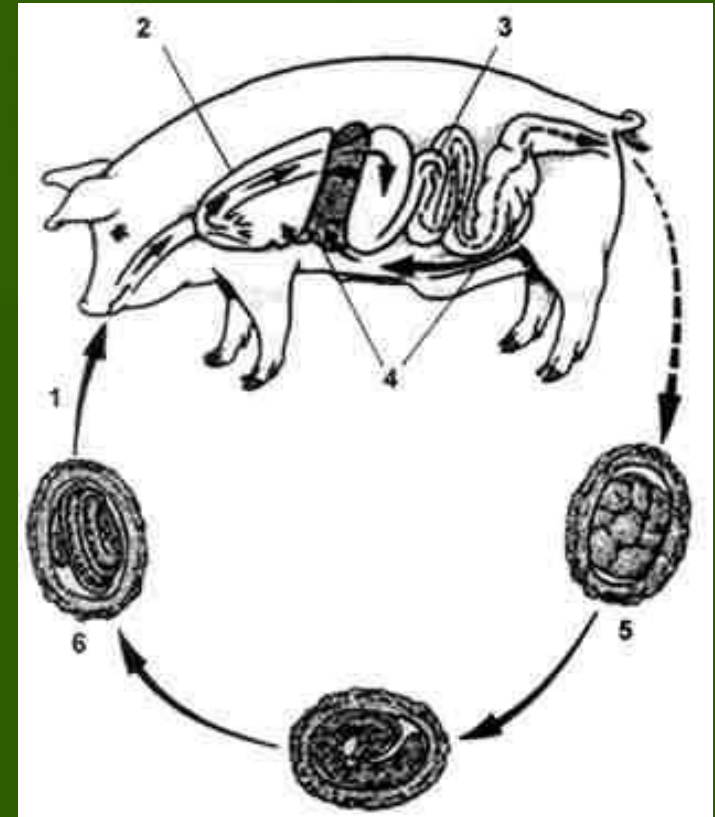
Common Health Issues

- Parasites
 - Internal
 - Roundworms
 - Whipworms
 - External
 - Mange
 - Lice
- Lameness
- Erysipelas
- Ileitis
- Respiratory disease
- Gastric Ulcers



Internal Parasites

- Roundworms
 - Very common
 - Infective eggs can remain in soil for 15-20 years
 - Need to routinely deworm pigs
 - Often observe a cough as one of the first clinical signs



Ascarids
Source: Pathology lecture (4th year vet students), contributed by Pat Halbur.

Internal Parasites

- Whipworms
 - Infect the large intestine
 - Can see a bloody scour
 - This can kill pigs
 - Common in 4-H pigs
 - Infective eggs survive in the environment for 10-20 years
 - Not all dewormers treat whipworms well



Source: Ernie's Slides GI, contributed by Ernest San'orc.

External Parasites

- Lice and Mange
 - Can see lice visually
 - Pigs with mange have small red bumps and are very itchy
 - Both are easily treatable with ivermectin



Source: Ernie's Slides: Skin, contributed by Ernest Sanford.

Lameness

- May be due to any number of reasons
 - Often trauma
 - May be infectious – Strep., Erysipelas, Mycoplasma, etc.
- Treat with antibiotics and non-steroidals, such as Banamine or Predef
- Can use glucosamine chondroitin



Source: Ernie's Slides: Lameness, contributed by Ernest Sanford.

Erysipelas

- Acute disease with “diamond” shaped red skin lesions and fever
- Responds well to penicillin



Ileitis

- Acute, hemorrhagic or more chronic form
- Treat with Tylan, Linco or Denagard



Respiratory Disease

- Can be caused by lots of different pathogens
- Coughing, thumping, sneezing
- Rough hair coat
- Need to treat with antibiotics and non-steroidals if fever is present (Banamine, aspirin)



Gastric Ulcers

- Common in stressed pigs
 - Disease stress
 - Environmental stress
 - Nutritional stress
- Pigs go off-feed
- Develop ulcer that eventually erodes through the stomach lining
 - Bleeding into stomach
 - See dark, tarry stools
- Can try to treat by feeding grass, rolled oats, alfalfa meal, etc. or using Tagamet



Preventing Problems

- Vaccination
- Good housing
 - Well-ventilated
 - Dry places to sleep
- Plenty of feed and water
- Paying close attention to your pigs and calling your veterinarian when any problems arise

Good Luck!!!