
"HOGG SENSE..."



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Dr. Kent Schwartz, ISU Diagnostician, gave an excellent presentation on procedures for diagnostic submissions at the SWIVMA Spring Meeting in Red Oak, Iowa, on April 3, 1996. His recommendations in this regard are abstracted here for practitioners and veterinary technicians who are often involved in preparing and packaging specimens for submission.

Euthanasia: Electrocutation - use electric cord with battery clips without an on-off switch on the cord (on-off switches can cause electrical accidents) or inject euthanasia solution IV.

Serology: Collect both purple top (anticoagulant) and red top (serum) tubes of blood at exsanguination.

Necropsy: Necropsy more than one pig immediately after euthanasia. Veterinarian should select the pigs for necropsy, not the owner. Owner may not select representative pigs.

Knife Sharpening: Sharpen knife with Supervalve knife sharpener.

Tissues to Collect: Collect the following "clean" tissues first: liver, kidney, spleen; then lung, heart, tonsil, small intestine and colon, in that order (*Remember: big pieces (golf ball size or larger) for culture, thin slices of lesions (1/2 inch thick) for histopathology*).

Commensals: Hps or Strep. suis isolations from the nasal cavity are not significant.

Intact Organs: Collect whole lungs and heart with intact pericardium for submission.

Joint Fluid: Reflect skin and flame underlying fascia before aspirating joint fluid for culture. Use propane torch with automatic ignition for flaming.

CNS Fluid: To aspirate clear CNS fluid without blood, insert needle off the mid-line without aspiration deep into the joint, then aspirate, collect clear fluid, stop aspiration, and withdraw needle.

Meningitis: Collect sample by inserting sterile swab through the flamed foramen magnum; much easier and safer than opening the skull.

Mulberry Heart Disease (MHD): Fibrin in pericardial fluid not tightly attached to the heart with hemorrhages in the myocardium is likely to be an MHD lesion. The addition of vitamin E prevents MHD; selenium deficiency is not involved with MHD.

Villus Atrophy: Place small section of opened small intestine in water in a clear test tube; wait 1-2 minutes until villi imbibe the water - look for villus atrophy.

Tonsil of the Colon: White spots on the mucosal surface of the colon are inflamed lymphoid follicles; don't confuse with lesions of nodular worms (Peyer's Patches of the colon).

Ascarid Migration: Severe Ascarid migration 7-10 days after naive pigs are placed in a heavily infested environment can cause fatal pneumonia in pigs from nursery size to adults.

Packaging Diagnostic Specimens: Place a garbage bag in the shipping container, add sufficient ice packs, then place the specimens in separate plastic containers. Expel as much air as possible from the garbage bag and fasten securely.

Whirl-Packs: Displace air from the bag, hold bag by the tabs and whirl or roll up the top bar; bend the tabs at each end to prevent leaking. Don't twist the tabs together as this will cause leakage.