

“HOGG SENSE...”

Alex Hogg, DVM, MS,
Editor
Vol. 6, No. 7

Sponsored By:
MVP Laboratories, Inc.
Ralston, NE 68127

Nine Ways to Make the Diagnostic Lab Happy: 1. Submit small live pigs or tissues from recently dead pigs. 2. Submit large tissues, such as whole lungs, for bacterial culture. Submit an intact decapitated skull when requesting culture of the brain. Skin the head and saw off the snout transversely to reduce the shipping weight. 4. If possible, avoid the submission of pigs that have been treated with antibiotics or chemotherapeutic agents. 5. Write a brief history of the case. The following information is invaluable to the diagnostician: age of the pigs, percentage of pigs affected, clinical signs and gross lesions observed and response to any treatment. 6. Pack tissues separately in double bags to prevent leakage during transit. 7. Use sufficient ice bags and insulation. 8. Don't twist the metal hand-holds on Whirl-paks together. Doing this will cause Whirl-paks to leak during transit. Simply remove the air from the Whirl-pak, whirl it about 3 times and bend each hand-hold toward the middle. 9. Share this information with your veterinary technician who is probably responsible for a good portion of these 9 points (Editor).

Low Selenium Affects Sperm Quality: Low levels of dietary selenium and vitamin E will lower a boar's semen quality, leading to failure to fertilize sows and gilts or produce small litters. Low selenium may cause sperm with bent or hooked tails which makes fertilization difficult. Feeding boars a diet containing 0.3 ppm of selenium is enough to maintain good sperm quality. It will take 60 days for a selenium deficiency to be corrected. (Don Mahan, PhD, Ohio State University; National Hog Farmer, June 15, 1998, pp 40-42).

Fluoroquinolones and Antibiotic Resistance: The World Health Organization (WHO) has concern about the potential human health consequences of fluoroquinolone use in livestock if antibiotic resistance was to increase and spread. One of the recommendations of WHO is the development of alternatives, such as vaccines, to the use of antimicrobials for animal disease prevention. (Sarah Muirhead, Feedstuffs, June 22, 1998, pp 1-4).

Cytoplasmic Droplets on Boar Sperm Cells: Given the present state of the art of artificial insemination (AI), it is recommended that boar ejaculates that exhibit less than 20% morphologically abnormal sperm, with less than 15% proximal and distal cytoplasmic droplets be used for AI. Boars that produce unacceptable ejaculates should be collected on a weekly basis; if no improvement is seen in ejaculate quality over a 3-month period, the animal should be culled from the breeding program. (Practice Tip by Althouse, G.C., DVM, PhD; Swine Health & Production, May and June 1998, p. 128).

Interaction Between PRRSV and *Streptococcus suis*: Pigs that were inoculated with PRRSV (day 0) and with *Streptococcus suis* (day 7) had massive quantities of *Streptococcus suis* in different organs and exhibited central nervous system signs and lameness associated with *Streptococcus suis* infections. Neither clinical signs nor considerable amounts of bacteria was found in 2 control groups that were not inoculated with PRRSV. PRRSV successfully predisposed *Streptococcus suis* to clinical signs of lameness and CNS signs. (Galena, L., DVM, et al; CVM, Univ. of Mn., AASP Newsletter, 4:4, pp 21-22, 1992).