

Construct your electronic library on pig health

To receive your regular updates please send your email address to:
pigbytes@positiveaction.co.uk



Absolute Swine

Alltech

Biomim

Danbred

Denkavit

APC Europe • Rotem
MIK • Hermitage
LUBING • Olmix
Tech Systems • Innovad
Waldo • Ryuarm
Nuscience • Ag World
Genesis • Waldo
Ge Pork • Alliance Genetics
Waste Spectrum

Introduction

Worms are quite a common occurrence in pigs – sometimes their effects are minimal, on other occasions they can compromise performance, cause condemnations in the abattoir and even cause mortality. The effects on live performance are typically a reduction in weight gain and an increased FCR.

Sometimes a worm infestation can act synergistically with other infections. Subclinical effects mount up economically but their magnitude depends upon a whole host of factors including feed quality, housing, environment, climate and genetic and veterinary inputs.

Control of worm infestations usually centres on the administration of anthelmintics (wormers), plus trying to interrupt the transmission of worms.

Historically, much of the emphasis on worm control has centred on reducing condemnation from milk spot livers which are caused by worm larvae damaging livers. Interestingly, most of the anthelmintics introduced over the last half century have been very effective against *Ascaris suis*, the cause of milk spot livers, yet this worm is still the most prevalent one in pigs around the world.

Evolution of worms

The digestive system provides a perfect 'home' for many species of worms. This is helped by the fact that it can be easily entered and exited.

The mouth is rarely parasitised but every other section has its incumbents. The main ones are:

- Oesophagus – *Gongylonema pulchrum* (the oesophageal worm).
- Stomach – *Hyostrongylus rubidus* (the red stomach worm), *Ascarops sexalatus*, *Ascarops strongylina*, *Gnathostoma spinigerum* and *Simonsia paradoxa* (the spiruroid worms).
- Small intestine – *Strongyloides ransomi* (the minute threadworm), *Ascaris suum* (the large round worm), *Trichinella spiralis* and other *Trichinella* Spp. and *Globocephalus urosubulatus* (hookworm).
- Large intestine (colon and caecum) – *Trichuris suis* (whipworm) and *Oesophagostomum* Spp. (nodular worms).

Other parts of the body can be infested with worms, including:

- Lungs – *Metastrongylus* Spp. (lungworms).
- Urinary system – *Stephanurus dentatus* (kidney worm).

These will be considered in more detail in future issues of PighealthBYTES

Back issues of Pighealth BYTES are available to download from our [website](http://www.positiveaction.co.uk).

www.positiveaction.co.uk