

Pighealth BYTES

Number: 128

Roundworms V

Your own reference source on pig health



Arm & Hammer

Berg & Schmidt

BCF

Chr Hansen

Delacon

ECM

Impextraco

Innovad

Jefo

Ascarids: pathology

Adult ascarid worms compete with their porcine hosts for nutrients. They also damage the tips of the intestinal villi by grazing on them, which interferes with nutrient absorption. As adult ascarid worms are strong swimmers it is not unknown for them to block the oviduct or even wander up the bile duct. Ascarid blockage of the bile duct is one of the common causes of jaundice (icterus) in swine.

Larval ascarids cause serious damage to the liver and lungs as they migrate through them. Repeated larval migrations through these two organs cause an increasingly severe eosinophilic infiltration in the portal areas and a marked fibrosis of the interlobular connective tissue. These changes manifest themselves as 'milk spots'.

Milk spot livers are condemned at slaughter. In the live animal milk spots tend to regress after four weeks if no further larval migrations occur. Severe ongoing hepatic larval migrations result in diffuse liver fibrosis.

Larval migration through the lungs is associated with petechial haemorrhages in the lung's alveoli as the larvae break out of the blood vessels. In more severe cases this can be accompanied by a cough.

Lungs damaged in this fashion are more susceptible to other conditions such as pneumonias caused by bacteria and/or mycoplasma.

Diagnosis

In active infections examine faeces for ascarid eggs by flotation methods. The presence of milk spot livers is indicative of larval ingestion in the last month.

Sometimes morbidity and mortality can be seen before eggs are shed, in which case one has to look for immature ascarids in the jejunum.

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