

# Pighealth BYTES

Number: 135

## Swine kidney worm

Your own reference source on pig health



Arm & Hammer

Berg & Schmidt

CCPA Group

Evans Vanodine

Jefo

Lallemand

LUBING

## Introduction

The swine kidney worm (or *Stephanurus dentatus*) lives in perirenal cysts that have fistulated openings into the ureter. Ectopic cysts are often found in other organs, for example bladder, stomach, spleen and spinal cord.

Adult worms are up to 4cm long. This worm does not live in areas with cold winters.

## Life cycle

Those eggs that get to the ureters get out of the pig's body in the urine. The larvae hatch in 1-2 days and reach infectivity in about five days. If the weather is wet and damp these larvae can remain on grass for several months. Infective larvae that are ingested or successfully penetrate the skin migrate to the mesenteric lymph nodes where they moult before moving to the liver via the bloodstream. They spend several weeks in the liver before migrating to the perirenal fat. An inflammatory cyst forms around a cluster of developing worms and a fistula into the ureter is created.

As these larvae are aggressive and use blood vessels to move around the pig's body, piglets can be infected in utero.

## Pathology

Migrating larvae produce haemorrhagic necrotic tracts in the tissues they pass through. In the liver considerable abscessation, portal phlebitis and thrombosis and, of course, scarring is seen. The presence of thrombophlebitis is a typical finding.

In areas where this worm is prevalent it is a major cause of trimming at the abattoir.

Natural Remedies

Novation

Nuscience