



Genesis

Gepork

HATO Lighting

Impex

LUBING

Mirius

Norel

Novus

OX-CTA

Socorex

Tonistry

Trouw Nutrition

## Risks presented by other animals

It is worth remembering that any animal can bring disease on to the farm. Common among these are cats and dogs and these should be kept out of your farm with the use of suitable animal fencing. Whatever you use for this fencing should also go into the ground as a deterrent to animals that can burrow.

Sometimes you can get a surprise visitor. While on a poultry breeding farm in Africa, I remember watching a monkey come out of a nearby tree, climb the fence and go into the poultry house – only to return a few minutes later with an egg, which he then sat and ate.

Any animal can act as a fomite and transport disease-causing micro-organisms into your pig herd via their feet or coats/skin. Animals infected by pig pathogens are a possible risk and the closer an animal is related to pigs the greater the risk. With that in mind, the most serious threat to your herd safety is likely to come from wild boars or warthogs.

## Vermin

In pig production, vermin are usually regarded as mice, rats and lizards. These creatures act as fomites, but can also carry certain dangerous organisms in their guts, for example, salmonella typhimurium and S. enteritidis. With the latter, the real risk to your pigs comes from rat or mouse droppings, especially if these contaminate your pig's feed or drinking water.

There are two situations where the whole animal can be a risk. Firstly, the rat, mouse or lizard can fall into a header tank, drown and then decompose – releasing all of its gut contents into the water supply.

Secondly, pigs will eat rats and mice if they can catch them. For example, if rats or mice regularly scurry along a pen wall, it is not unknown for a sow to place her open mouth across this route and then when the unfortunate pest comes along the sow has a tasty, although potentially harmful, snack!