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TITLE

DIAGNOSES IN ADULT PIGS 2008 TO 2018 IN ENGLAND AND WALES FROM ANALYSIS OF LABORATORY CARCASE SUBMISSIONS

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CONTENT

Background and objectives

Analysis of surveillance data and diagnoses in adult pigs over a ten-year period in England and Wales was undertaken. This provides insight into the presenting signs and disease syndromes that prompt postmortem examinations (PME) in the GB scanning surveillance network, and the range of diagnoses made.

Material and Methods

Data collected from adult pigs submitted for PME under Government-subsidised surveillance at sites in England and Wales were analysed for 2008-2018. This included main presenting sign and diagnoses, which were made according to strict criteria. Adult pigs were defined as seven-months-old and older. Submissions from any size of herd were included.

Results

Data for around 650 submissions were analysed. The two most common primary clinical signs were “found dead” and “musculoskeletal/lame”. Amongst the main types of disease were 1) abdominal catastrophes which includes small intestinal torsions, some of which occurred as small outbreaks in outdoor pigs, and 2) osteochondrosis dissecans and non-degenerative arthritis. The diagnoses of bacterial and parasitic diseases varied in presentation; erysipelas being seen in smaller unvaccinated herds or young breeding stock; hepatic necrosis due to Clostridium novyi in sows; and coccidiosis in replacement breeding stock occurring soon after entry to outdoor sites.

Discussion and conclusion

Examination of carcases allows full diagnostic investigation and is an important component of scanning surveillance. The submission of adult pigs from commercial herds, unless of high value or boars, most often follows disease in more than one animal in a group. This analysis shows that pigs being found dead or having musculoskeletal disease are the main signs prompting submissions for diagnostic investigation. Non-infectious disease was prominent amongst diagnoses, some with managemental risk factors; however a range of infectious diseases were also diagnosed. Descriptions of these in surveillance reports provides vets attending pigs with information to help in prevention of disease.