

## MIS-PP-06

### TITLE

EVALUATION OF DRINKING BEHAVIOR OF NURSERY PIGLETS TO ASSESS FEASIBILITY OF USING FEEDING BOWLS FOR ORAL ADMINISTRATION OF ILEITIS VACCINE

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### CONTENT

#### Background and Objectives

The oral live vaccine Enterisol Ileitis, is commonly applied via the drinking water system. In some occasions the drinking water system is not suitable for administering the vaccine. In these cases, the use of a feeding bowl can be an alternative. The objective of this study was to evaluate the drinking behavior of nursery piglets when using a feeding bowl.

#### Material & methods

In total 93 piglets spread over 4 pens were evaluated. Pigs were individually marked with numbers on their back two weeks after weaning. Based on literature 4h-water consumption was estimated to be approximately 6.5 l, this amount was applied (including Thiosulphate Blue) in a feeding bowl (7l capacity). For each minute the drinking behavior of pigs was noted. A piglet was recorded as having a drinking bout when the snout was deep in the water and it had an active drinking position. The drinking behavior was video recorded for a period of 5 hours starting about 11.30 am, during that time the usual nipple drinker water system was shut-off.

#### Results

Due to intensive neo-explorative behavior, it was not possible to identify and record individual piglets having a drinking bout in the first 30-45 minutes of observation. The bowls were emptied between within 3h4', 3h28', 3h35' and 4h10'. Except for one, all piglets had at least one recognizable drinking bout before the bowl was emptied. The non-drinking piglet was considered sick.

#### Discussion & Conclusion

Application of drinker bowls can be a suitable method for the application of Enterisol Ileitis. To ensure that the vaccine is consumed in the recommended 4h-time period it is advisable to measure water intake the previous day at the time of planned vaccination.