



## BACTERIAL DISEASES

BBD-079

### A SUDDEN MORTAL DISEASE OUTBREAK IN ORGANIC SPF PIGS

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#### Introduction

Contact with new microbes may be dangerous for pigs of high health status. This manuscript describes a disease outbreak following allocation of SPF pigs.

#### Material & Methods

At the weight of 43 kg, 152 SPF pigs born by parity 1-sows were transferred 190 km to a new organic herd rearing fatteners out-doors. The transport vehicle was cleaned and without other animals. At arrival, all pigs were kept on deep straw with access to pasture.

*Four days after arrival, lameness was observed in two pigs. Two days later, five pigs were found dead and another 7 depressed (poor balance and/or lame). Affected pigs were treated with benzylpenicillin and/or Vitamin E/Selenium. The following day, more pigs expressed severe depression, dog sitting and paralysis.*

Autopsy revealed purulent meningitis with presence of *Streptococcus suis* in the brain in one pig, and early signs of serositis in the abdomen of another pig. All pigs were individually treated with benzylpenicillin procaine for 3 days.

Six weeks after arrival, blood samples were collected from 10 pigs and analysed for presence of antibodies to *Haemophilus parasuis* and *Streptococcus suis* with indirect ELISA-systems.

#### Results

In total, 11 pigs died and 2 pigs were culled. The remaining 139 pigs regained health and a high DWG.

Six weeks after arrival, all pigs were seropositive to *Haemophilus parasuis* ( $A_{450} > 0.5$ ), and seven pigs had high levels of antibodies ( $A_{450} > 1.1$ ). Two pigs had low levels of antibodies to *Streptococcus suis* (0.54 and 0.68).

#### Discussion & Conclusion

Infections with *Streptococcus suis* may be lethal. However, the low levels of antibodies only indicated presence of but not a major influence of that bacteria. Instead, the high levels of antibodies to *Haemophilus parasuis* indicated a major influence of that bacteria. It cannot be excluded that the pigs were exposed to *Haemophilus parasuis* during the transport.