

RES-OP-06

FIRST STEP TO INCREASE SWINE FARMERS' TRUST IN THEIR VETERINARIANS: DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRUST IN VETERINARIAN SCALE (TIVS)

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Introduction

Alternative, especially preventive measures have to be implemented to reduce the need for antimicrobial treatments. An intervention study showed that farms with higher compliance with intervention plans tended to achieve bigger reduction. Moreover, farmers who followed the vet recommendations often trust the measure.

In human medicine, patients' trust in their physician is considered essential for good quality and effective medical care. Several questionnaires/scales exist in human medicine, but none of them have been developed in veterinary medicine.

The objective of this study was to develop and validate the Trust in Veterinarian Scale (TiVS), which aims to measure swine farmers' trust in their veterinarian.

Material and methods

The scale construction process used a literature review and involved a panel of voluntary professionals through focus groups and open-ended qualitative interviews. A list of items, based on a multidimensional theoretical framework, explored the different dimensions of trust. Dimensionality, internal consistency, test-retest reliability and construct validity were investigated. The scale-development process comprised an explanatory principal component analysis, Cronbach's α -coefficients and structural equation modeling.

Results

The validated scale comprised 25 items, divided in five dimensions (Competence, Integrity, Fidelity, Caring, Global trust) with excellent psychometric properties. Items had good communality within their own dimension and structural equation modeling strongly supported the possibility of calculating a global score.

Discussion/Conclusion

TiVS is the first scale adapted to pig farmers' trust in veterinarian. Many factors have an impact: history, psychology, competence, economical context, production organization, agricultural advisors... So, trust between farmers and veterinarians is a dynamic concept, changing over time and circumstances. Assessing farmers' trust in their veterinarians is probably an essential step to improve adherence to treatments or recommendations. Thus, this scale could be used to identify the different levels and dimensions of trust. Further studies are needed to confirm our result and validate TiVS in other production.