

## **Mycoplasma Pneumonia**

*Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* is a bacteria that causes pneumonia in pigs. The illness is usually not fatal, but lingers for weeks as a low-grade cough.

### **Clinical Signs**

- Intermittent coughing that persists for days to weeks and worsens with dust and odor problems within enclosed hog facilities.
- Pigs show a decreased rate of gain despite normal feed intake and become less efficient at converting feed to gain.



### **Diagnosis**

Bacteria can be cultured from the nasal passages to make a diagnosis. Your veterinarian also can inspect the lungs of pigs at slaughter and make a diagnosis.

### **Treatment**

Affected pigs usually maintain a good appetite, antibiotics may be added to the feed.

### **Prevention**

It is critical to understand that problems with mycoplasma pneumonia signal that ventilation, air quality, stocking rate, stress, and immunization practices need to be reexamined.

## **Pasterellosis**

Pasterellosis typically occurs secondary to Mycoplasma Pneumonia. It produces pneumonia and sometimes inflammation of the heart and surrounding areas. Early and vigorous treatments with antibiotics can aid in prevention.

## **Swine Influenza**

An outbreak of this virus can occur within days after introduction of new pigs onto the farm, or after return of pigs from a show. This especially occurs among confined pigs, particularly in the winter when ventilation may be reduced to maintain housing temperatures.

### **Clinical Signs**

- Fever
- Quiet and reluctant to move
- A loud, dry, cough that sounds like barking
- Tearing, nasal discharge, and sneezing may also be evident.

Most pigs will become ill but typically only a small % will die. Occasionally, certain strains of the influenza virus can move from pigs to infect people, and vice-versa.



### **Diagnosis**

Your veterinarian can confirm the diagnosis through blood tests or by testing for the virus in the nasal discharge.

### **Treatment**

No specific treatment exists for influenza. Provide supportive therapy by maintaining ventilation, clean feed and water. Because it is a viral disease, antibiotics (which treat bacterial infections) do not help. Your veterinarian may prescribe antibiotics to prevent secondary bacterial infections that can occur.

### **Prevention**

Isolate new or show pigs for at least 3 weeks. Vaccination may reduce infection risk, but it will not always protect every pig.

## **Atrophic Rhinitis**

Atrophic rhinitis (AR) is a common respiratory infection of piglets that is caused by two bacteria, *Bordetella bronchiseptica* and *Pasteurella multocida*. AR pigs exposed to adult pigs develop partial immunity. Adult sows then transmit AR to their piglets. Piglets may develop disease at any time from weaning until market.

### **Clinical Signs**

- Watery eyes; leading to dark streaks of tears down the sides of the face
- Sneezing
- Runny nose, occasionally a bloody nose, deviation or bulging of the snout over time
- Poor feed conversion with reduced daily gain

### **Treatment**

Improve air quality to help change the clinical signs of AR. Antibiotics can reduce AR in infected pigs, and will eliminate the organism from the nasal passages, but treated pigs cannot be considered "cured."



### **Prevention**

**Improvement of air quality**, ventilation, sanitation, and reducing crowded conditions. Give pregnant sows 2 doses of a killed bacterin, 2 weeks apart, in the late weeks of pregnancy to increase the antibodies in the colostrum and milk. **Antibiotic therapy** administered to the sows while the piglets are nursing may help to limit bacteria from the sow to the babies. Segregated early weaning and medicated early weaning may also limit the transfer of AR agents from the sow to the piglets. **Eliminate** AR from the herd by culling then repopulation with pigs from herds that have been shown to have no existing AR.

**Respiratory diseases are common in pigs housed indoors. Many infectious agents (bacteria and viruses) can be transmitted in the air that is shared by pigs that are housed together. Assessing your facility and creating a program to control respiratory disease in your herd can decrease economic loss.**

### **Pleuropneumonia**

*Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* (APP) is a bacteria that causes a very deadly form of pneumonia **only** in pigs. Purchasing APP pigs that appear healthy and exposing them to your herd can quickly spread

### **Clinical Signs**

- Early signs are fever, poor appetite, and stiffness.
- These are followed by shallow respiration, coughing, and blood-tinged nasal discharge. Death may occur



### **Diagnosis**

Your veterinarian can take samples from the lungs of

### **Treatment**

Treat the entire herd with injectable antibiotics. A variety of antibiotics can be used; check with your veterinarian. APP pigs usually do not eat, antibiotics

### **Prevention**

Because a pig infected with APP may appear healthy, it is critical that any pigs purchased to be introduced to your herd are first tested for the disease. The test is a blood test that detects infection. All new pigs that are bought should be kept isolated until blood test results are final. Purchase new pigs for your herd

# Respiratory Diseases of Swine



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