PIG MEDICINE

Course Organiser: AW (Dan) Tucker

Lecturers: Dan Tucker

Term: Michaelmas

Aims

The material covered in this lecture course is intended to provide a theoretical basis on which newly qualified graduates can recognise, investigate, treat and control the more significant diseases of pigs in the UK and Western Europe.

Objectives:

At the end of the course students should:

• possess essential information to enable diagnosis, treatment, prevention and control of significant pig diseases in the individual, group or herd;

• be familiar with concepts of herd health, bio-security, & population medicine.

Lecture List:

1. The Pig Industry and Herd Health Investigation
   An introduction to the pig industry Consideration of the role of the veterinarian in optimising pig health, welfare and productivity.

2–3. Respiratory System
   A review of the recognition, investigation and management of common respiratory diseases seen in pigs; based on an age-based approach emphasising conditions with greatest economic significance.

4. Nervous System
   Consideration of nervous diseases affecting pigs categorised on congenital, dietary /toxic, or infectious origin.

5. Cardiovascular and Haematological / Lymphatic System
   A review of diseases affecting the cardiovascular, blood, and lymphatic systems categorised on dietary, infectious, immune-mediated and congenital / neoplastic origin.

6. Polysystemic Conditions
   A review of the recognition, diagnosis, management and prevention of conditions affecting multiple organ systems with an emphasis on post-
weaning multi-systemic wasting syndrome and notifiable diseases.

7–8. Musculoskeletal System and Lameness

An outline of the significance of musculoskeletal diseases in pigs; an age-based consideration of the aetiology, diagnosis, treatment and control of infectious and non-infectious conditions.

9–10. Gastro-intestinal System and Enteric Diseases

Consideration of gastrointestinal diseases affecting pigs pre- and post-weaning; outlining important risk factors, clinical presentations, diagnosis, treatment and prevention measures.

11. Skin Diseases

A detailed consideration of the importance of skin disease in pig health, welfare and productivity; common causes: mechanisms, aetiopathogenesis, epidemiology, treatment and prevention.

12. Urogenital system and udder

Diseases of the uterus, vagina, vulva, kidney and udder.

NOTE: Obstetrical conditions such as dystocia, uterine prolapse etc. are covered in the Infertility and Obstetrics Course.

13. Pig Medicine in the Context of Pet Pigs

An overview of the legal aspects of pet pig ownership and of the more important disease and husbandry issues for this group of animals.

Further Reading:

You may find the following books useful if further information is required:


The Casualty Pig: Published by the Pig Veterinary Society (www.pigvetsoc.org) and held in the library.

This course is complimented by:
• A problem-solving pig herd health seminar in the preventative medicine part of the final year Farm Animal Rotation, including herd health visit and reporting.

• Resources on Moodle:

• A problem-solving pig herd health seminar in the preventative medicine part of the final year Farm Animal Rotation

• A self-study picture quiz on pig medicine during the final year rotation.

Other information:

• Pig Veterinary Society: www.pigvetsoc.org has a student webpage outlining up to date information on veterinary practices that have a large pig business and welcome students for EMS (some of which may subsidise EMS students). The Society welcomes student members (see DT for information).

• European College of Pig Health Management (ECPHM): www.ecphm.org gives information on specialist pig vets, and postgraduate training, across the EU.

• DEFRA: www.defra.gov.uk has excellent resources on notifiable diseases, zoonoses, and legislation concerning animal health and welfare.

• APHA: http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/surveillance/seg/pig.htm has useful information and reports on recent statistics of disease surveillance and investigations.

• The Pig Site: www.thepigsite.com is a brilliant easy access resource on pig health and disease control. Another useful pig veterinary resource is www.3tres3.com .

• Pig Progress: www.pigprogress.net is a useful health resource with an international perspective.

• NADIS: www.nadis.org.uk the UK National Animal Disease Information Service is a practitioner based surveillance system for livestock species with interesting monthly data and very useful feature articles on key diseases.

• AHDB Pork (previously BPEX): http://pork.ahdb.org.uk – the pig producers and processor levy board. A useful source of information and potential funding for summer and EMS projects.
• Specialist Practices: The Bishopton Vet Group, Ripon, offers a 2 week tailored EMS program focused on pigs (www.bishoptonvets.co.uk). The Garth Partnership, Beeford, E. Yorks, is another student friendly specialised pig practice (www.garthvet.co.uk).