PROSWINE

ERYSIPELAS

(Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae)

Erysipelas is an infectious disease most commonly seen in growing or adult pigs. Lambs, poultry and select species of wild birds can also be infected. The disease often becomes apparent after periods of high stress such as farrowing, co-mingling, shelter moves or rapid changes in environmental temperatures (autumn, spring). Poor hygiene and introduction of unvaccinated animals to the herd are contributing factors to disease development.

CLINICAL SIGNS

+/- "Diamond lesions"- reddened areas of skin that may appear burned or rash like. Can be raised or flat, circular to diamond shape
+/- Fever (40-42°C) without respiratory signs or diarrhea
+/- Abortion
+/- Skin discoloration - reddened or blue skin of the ears, nose, neck, or abdomen
+/- Lameness - swollen joints with cartilage damage
+/- Sudden death



"Diamond lesions" that can be seen with Erysipelas

ROUTE OF INFECTION

Maternal immunity typically protects offspring for several weeks. Many healthy pigs can be carriers, infected yet never displaying clinical signs. Infected animals contaminate feed and their environment via their saliva, nasal secretions, faeces and urine. These contaminated substances infect naïve animals via cuts or ingestion. Note that contaminated soil is typically not infective past 35 days.

HUMAN RISK

Erysipelas is zoonotic, which means that it can pass between animals and humans.

It is important that caretakers are aware of this risk and are instructed not to touch potentially infected pigs without gloves. If contact is made, wash hands thoroughly and monitor for clinical signs. Consult a physician if necessary.

DIAGNOSIS

Tissue culture or PCR

DIFFERENTIALS

Salmonellosis, Streptococcal Infections, *Actinobacillus suis**, Classical Swine Fever*

PREVENTION

- **Vaccination:** Killed vaccines are commercially available and highly effective at preventing disease.
  > Duration of immunity = 26 weeks
  > Vaccinate & booster all replacement gilts
  > Booster breeding stock twice a year
- **Environment:** Maintain strict biosecurity and hygiene.
  > Shower in/shower out
  > Designated clothing/boots
- **Stress:**
  > Maintain approved stocking densities
  > Minimise comingling if possible

TREATMENT

- **Vaccinate**
- **Antibiotic intervention:**
  > Follow AML guidelines

*Emerging Animal Disease