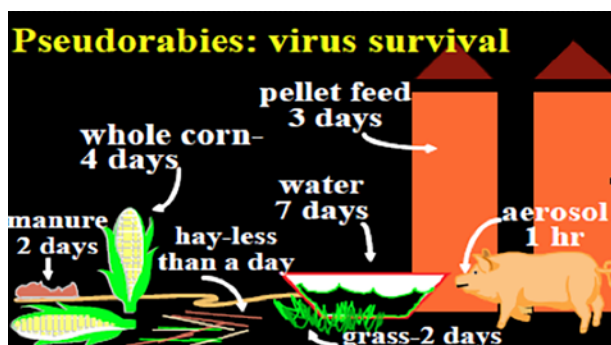


# AUJESZKY'S DISEASE (PSEUDORABIES)

## Pathology description

Coccidiosis in the pig is caused by a parasite called *Isospora suis*. There are a range of other coccidia (e.g. *Eimeria* sp), often found in the pig, but these are generally thought to be harmless although in rare cases can cause disease in young adults. The parasite has a direct lifecycle between pigs (i.e. there is no intermediate host) with Oocysts shed from an infected individual into the environment, in which they undergo a temperature dependant sporulation process, before infecting other animals orally.



## Symptoms

### Pigs less than 3 weeks old

In baby pigs, the disease may be characterized by sudden death with few, if any, clinical signs. Frequently death is preceded by fever which may exceed 105°F, dullness, loss of appetite, vomiting, weakness, incoordination and convulsions. If vomiting and diarrhea occur, the disease in baby pigs closely resembles transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE). In pigs less than 2 weeks old, death losses frequently approach 100%. Baby pigs may have become infected before birth and die within 2 days after birth, occasionally after showing violent shaking and shivering. Piglets infected immediately after birth may show clinical signs within the first 2 days of life and usually die before they are 5 days old.

### Pigs 3 weeks to 5 months old

After 3 weeks of age, pigs usually develop a degree of resistance to the disease, and death losses may decrease from 50% in pigs exposed when 3 weeks old to less than 5% in pigs exposed when 5 months old. Death losses vary with different strains of the virus, and even in grown pigs severe death losses occasionally occur. Fever is a prominent clinical sign in these growing pigs and is followed by loss of appetite, listlessness, labored breathing, excessive salivation, vomiting, trembling and eventually marked incoordination, especially of the hind legs. Normally death is preceded by convulsions. Involvement of the respiratory tract with sneezing, rubbing of the nose and coughing may occur. Clear to yellowish nasal discharges may be seen. Infected pigs that recover have lost condition and will be slow to reach market weight.

### Mature pigs

The disease in adult pigs often is not severe, but with some strains of pseudorabies virus, deaths may occur. The disease in adult pigs is characterized by fever and respiratory signs which may include nasal discharges, sneezing, nose rubbing and coughing. Pseudorabies is often found in operations with other respiratory diseases such as *Pasteurella* and *Actinobacillus* (*Hemophilus*) pleuropneumonia. Nervous signs such as trembling, incoordination and itching occasionally occur, and blindness may follow pseudorabies infection. Vomiting and diarrhea or constipation may be seen.

## Costs of the disease

- Increased feed cost
- Mortality
- Less weight gain

## Vectors

### • Environment

Initial exposure takes place when pigs are placed on a site that has been contaminated with the PRV virus. It can be spread between sites by contaminated boots, trucks, rats, mice or wild pigs.

Virus airborne spread - at least 3km (2 miles).

### • Material

Contaminated equipment

### • Animal

The main source of infection is the pigs themselves, which contaminate their own environments. Within herds it may be spread by nose to nose contact, or by aerosol droplets. Also infection is possible through infected semen via AI or a carrier boar.

### • Working method

Insufficient cleaning and disinfecting

Periods of stress may activate disease.

→ MAIN VECTOR: contaminated pigs

## Preventive action

- Hygiene: cleaning and disinfecting of barn, let dry before new animals are entering
- Rodent and insect control
- Keep pens as dry as possible and in particular those areas of the floor where the piglets defecate.
- All-in-all-out principle
- Putting new boars and gilts in quarantine

## Controlling action

A wide variety of drugs is available for the treatment of swine dysentery, administration of these drugs must happen under the advice of your veterinarian.

## Advised Protocols

For every possible vector, a hygiene protocol must be implemented. See the Specific Purpose Protocol:



HOUSING  
HYGIENE



PERSONAL  
HYGIENE



TRANSPORT