

Worming pigs

There are a numerous endoparasites in pigs (internal parasites). Some contribute towards wasting despite adequate nutritional intake and some contribute towards respiratory problems. For treatment and prevention either speak to us or your vet.

One internal parasites of great significance is *Ascaris suum*. The eggs of this parasite last in the environment for several years and are very resistant. It is significant in both pigs kept indoors and those kept outdoors. Once the eggs are ingested the parasite hatches and undergoes a few moults, one of the intermediary stages migrates out of the intestine, through the liver, causing damage, through the back of the lungs, up the airways and is coughed and swallowed to finally mature as an adult in the gut. A gravid female can produce as much as 200 000 eggs per day! This will heavily contaminate the environment the pig is in. The damage in the liver leaves hepatic scars termed ‘milk spot’ at the abattoir. The damage to the lungs can either contribute towards respiratory problems in its own right or exacerbate pneumonia pathogens (viruses and bacteria), increasing the severity of clinical disease. Pigs for slaughter affected by *Ascaris suum* will have reduced growth rates and reduced feed conversion so it is also economically important. Worming of adult stock is usually on a 6 monthly basis. Pigs for slaughter are wormed at the peak infection time, this needs to be discussed with your vet or with us.



Above – flubenol wormer available on general sales



Liver (left) with ‘milk spot’ white lesions.



Ascaris suum – adult parasite

If your pigs are affected by mange or lice it is worth discussing with your vet on eradication. Both of these external parasites are very itchy and are a serious welfare issue. They need treating with prescription products.

pig affected by mange



Blood sucking louse – easily visible on pigs.