We are delighted that the International Pig Veterinary Society Congress 2004, decided to select South Africa as the host country for the 20th IPVS Congress. The Pig Veterinarians of South Africa will ensure that this congress lives up to the best traditions of previous congresses; incorporating an interesting and topical scientific programme, fascinating accompanying persons tours and an excellent social programme, allowing delegates the opportunity to network with their overseas colleagues.

This, the first IPVS congress on the African continent, will undoubtedly be of enormous benefit in generating solutions to the emerging pig veterinary challenges, especially those related to exotic and changing viral diseases, decreased use of antimicrobials and nutritional advances. The congress is important to further pig veterinary science in South Africa, to encourage younger veterinarians to join the pig industry, as a vehicle to generate funds for research and to improve the pig industry in Southern Africa.

South Africa is a magnificent and beautiful country, and offers tourists value for money. Thus, pre and post congress tours will be a major attraction for delegates to come to South Africa. Durban, in KwaZulu Natal, is a vibrant multi-cultured city with magnificent beaches, easily accessible game parks, theme villages and a moderate winter climate making it an ideal tourist destination. We urge our colleagues throughout the world to use this opportunity to get a glimpse of the continent’s rich and fascinating wonders and to enjoy the hospitality of their African friends.

Dr Peter Evans
Chairman: Local Organising Committee: IPVS 2008
**WEANING - THE DANISH APPROACH**

Anders Holm,
Odder Veterinary Clinic, Denmark

**Introduction**

I am a swine practitioner, 50 years of age, and had my DVM in 1982, and became certified in Pig diseases in 1988.

As a partner in a practice employing 7 veterinarians, we are 4 veterinarians specialised in pig diseases. Our clinic is situated in a pig dense area in Eastern Jutland, and we attend approx 150 pig farms.

**How do we wean in Denmark?**
The following points are regarded essential when weaning pigs in DK:
- Ai/ AO procedure/ production in sections
- 1-2 weeks production=one unit
- Double-climate pens, with a heating system
- power washing and drying before pigs go in

**Danish Production Traits from 2005 (7-30kg)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DK, average</th>
<th>“Best”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at weaning</td>
<td>31days</td>
<td>25days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADG</td>
<td>425g</td>
<td>502g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed conversion</td>
<td>1.75kg/kg</td>
<td>1.76kg/kg gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Management:** It is crucial, that infections in piglets during the suckling period are under control, avoiding acute infections after weaning.

Management is by far the most important element in the efforts of preventing and controlling disease after weaning. The production traits of the weaning period is, however, completely dependent of the quality of the weaned piglets. Optimal results after weaning requires healthy piglets from the farrowing unit.

It is of outermost importance that the pigs have ideal surroundings when weaned. That means that pens should be completely dry and heated, so the temperature is 30 degrees C in the area where the pigs lies, when weaned at 4 weeks. The temperature is reduced with 2 degrees C for every week weaned.

The pigs will always tell if they are cold: they gather in a corner lying on top of each other. This is critical if the pigs at this point are infected with coli, bordetella, streptococci or even PRRS. The cooling of pigs at this stage, often leads to an acute outbreak of disease.

After weaning we face two major challenges regarding the feeding of the piglets. No. one is the shift from a milk based nutrition (i.e. proteins of animal origin) to a diet based on a vegetable composition. The second challenge is to make the piglets grow. Our objective is to obtain a weight gain of min. 23 kg in 7 weeks.

To meet these two challenges we need special diets to different age groups. A common experience is that optimal growth and feed economy requires a rather simple composition. A diet based on soya-protein, barley/wheat and vitamins/minerals.

**Diseases and treatment:**
The diseases of importance after weaning:
- E coli
- Streptococci
- APP
- Lawsonia
- PRRS
- PMWS

Figures from Vetstat of therapeutical antibiotics most often used at weaning shows:

Weaned pigs in DK are treated

- Gastrointestinal 4 ADD (Average daily dose)
- Respiratory 0.8 ADD

The distribution of antibiotics (oral) used in weaning pigs are as follows:

**Gastrointestinal:**
- Tetracyclines 1.25 ADD
- Pleuromutilines 0.77 ADD
- Macrolides: 0.34 ADD

**Respiratory:**
- Macrolides 0.34 ADD
- Tetracyclines 0.26 ADD
- Penicillines ampi 0.25 ADD

It is quite often, that we have outbreaks of enteritis from 2½ weeks after weaning caused by Lawsonia, but in some farms we have experienced coinfection with Circovirus, which had caused problems with very little clinical effect of antibiotics used. This has caused a higher amount of antibiotics used after weaning.

Removal of pigs to sick pens in a separate unit seems to be very useful in farms with acute infections leading to an increased number of wasted pigs.

The use of zinc oxide in two weeks after weaning, is a method used worldwide to treat E. coli associated diarrheoa. This method has proved its effect consistently throughout 20 years around the world.

It is estimated, that approx 60% of the total amount of antibiotics used in pigs are spend on enteritis in weaned and grower pigs.

**Conclusion:** In Denmark we experience a substantial improvement of the weaning facilities as the bigger herds build new weaning facilities. It seems critical, that the management is optimal around weaning, weaning weight is exceeding 7 kg, and the piglets are free of acute infections when weaned. This can lead to a minimal need for antibiotic treatments.

**References**
1. Holm, (1990), IPVS Lausanne p 154