20th International Pig Veterinary Society
Congress

June 22-26
Durban
South Africa

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-cultural 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
PCV-2-ANTIBODY SEROPREVALENCES OF BOARS OF AUSTRIAN BREEDING FARMS AND OF BOARS OF ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION CENTRES

F Schmoll¹, C Lang¹, E Pirker², A Grieslser², B Exel³, F Entenfellner⁴, W Sipos¹

¹VMU - Clinic for Swine, VIENNA, Austria
²Traunkreis VetClinic, RIED IM TRAUNKREIS, Austria
³Schweinebesamung Gleisdorf, GLEISDORF, Austria
⁴Tierarztpraxis Entenfellner, STÖSSING, Austria

Introduction
Porcine circovirus type 2 (PCV-2) has been identified as the causal agent of postweaning multisystemic wasting syndrome (PMWS). In addition PCV-2 is discussed to be involved in other syndromes such as reproductive failure. The vertical transmission route has recently been reported (1). PCV-2 DNA was detected by PCR in semen of naturally as well as of experimentally infected boars. Intermittent excretion of the virus by infected boars is described, too. However, exact duration of shedding after natural infection is not known and infectivity of PCV-2 in porcine semen has not yet been determined. Therefore semen may be a significant vehicle for transmission of the disease. In this study an anti-PCV2-IgM/IgG ELISA, which enables to distinguish between acute, active, recent (between one to two months), and old infections, was used to evaluate the potential presence of PCV-2 infections in active boars from sow herds and three different artificial insemination (AI) centres.

Materials and Methods
Serum samples of 95 boars of Austrian breeding farms and 377 boars of three Austrian AI centres (A: 161, B: 107 and C: 109 boars) were collected for routine diagnostics. The serum samples were stored at -20 °C and serologically tested by a PCV-2 antibody (Ab) ELISA (Ingezim Circovirus IgG/IgM 1.1.PCV.K2; Ingenasa, Madrid, Spain). Specific IgMs are detectable approximately till 50-60 days. IgGs are first detectable between 12 and 15 days and remain detectable for years according to the instructions of the manual.

Results
Out of the 472 analysed boars specific IgGs were detectable in 285 (60.4 %) animals. None of the boars showed IgM Abs (table 1). The percentage of positive boars was higher in the breeding herds than in the AI centres.

Table 1 Distribution of specific IgGs and IgMs in boars of three AI centres and from breeding herds

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<th>AI centre A</th>
<th>AI centre B</th>
<th>AI centre C</th>
<th>breeding herds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% IgGs</td>
<td>63.48</td>
<td>52.34</td>
<td>55.96</td>
<td>69.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% IgMs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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Regarding the age-class specific distribution of Ab-positive boars it could be shown, that the percentage of positive animals was higher in the group of young boars in general (Fig. 1).

Discussion
Based on specific IgG and IgM analyses acute infections were not detectable in the investigated animals. On the other hand preliminary data show, that about two thirds of the boars have had contact with PCV2. As demonstrated by other authors (2), PCV2 may be shed intermittently in semen for more than 90 days. Therefore viral shedding can not be excluded in the boars under investigation, too. Specific risk assessment demands the detection of antigen in serum and semen samples by PCR.

References

Figure 1 Age-class specific distribution of specific IgG-positive boars in the four herds.