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-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
Introduction

Although Salmonella prevalence has been dropping in most parts of the world (1, 2), the threat and prevalence of Salmonella in Asia continues to be high (3, 4, 5). The Philippines is no exception to this where the damaging effects of the disease continue. The purpose of this study is to determine how prevalent Salmonellosis in commercial swine farms in the Philippines is.

Materials and Methods

The study involved 55 farms from the period of January 2002 to November 2004 where 330 tissue samples (e.g. spleen, lungs, kidneys, stomach and lymph nodes) were tested using Salmonella sp. PCR. The number of tissue samples ranged from 2 to 24 per farm. Most of these farms experienced high mortalities and high incidence of Porcine Respiratory Disease Complex (PRDC) in the nursery and early growing phase. A positive case indicates the presence of even a single sample positive result. Confirmation was done using a standard PCR test for Salmonella sp. whereby tissue sample extracts are taken and subjected to annealing and reconstruction. They are then subjected to gel electrophoresis where reaction bands are observed and compared with that of a known Salmonella sp. control.

Results and Discussion

Figure 1 illustrates a PCR result derived from the study indicating a positive result.

Figure 1 PCR positive for Salmonellosis.

The proportion of positive PCR samples and cases are determined and shown in Table 1.

Twenty eight percent (28%) of the samples tested positive with PCR. This translates to 93 out of the 330 tissue samples submitted reacted PCR positive. Most of the isolates were found in the lungs and spleen. Continuous heavy antibiotic medication may be the reason for the relatively low PCR positive percentage. A total of 56% of the farms were PCR positive (31/55 farms). Similar to the percentage of positive reactors on a sample level, antibiotic usage may be the influencing factor for some of the farms becoming PCR negative. This is higher compared to Europe (1, 2) due to differences in production systems, diagnostic test used and sample used for the test.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>% PCR Positive</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farms</td>
<td>56%</td>
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Regardless of the influencing factors, this indicates that in almost 6 out of 10 farms with high mortalities and PRDC, Salmonella sp. was observed present by PCR.

This demonstrates that Salmonella sp. is present in majority (> 50%) of the farms tested in the study. If Salmonella is involved, corrective procedures should be taken to control it, as Salmonella can have a tremendous impact as possible zoonosis and has further epidemiologic implications. Reduction of the impact of infection is possible through vaccination or antibiotic medication and should be implemented in farms confirmed for the said disease (6, 7).

References