

NEPHRITIS

What is the disease?

Nephritis is an inflammatory, degenerative disease of the kidney that is often referred to as 'white spotted kidney'. It is one of the most common causes of condemnation of pig kidneys in abattoirs and is reported to be caused by a variety of bacterial and viral pathogens. Affected pigs may appear clinically normal or can also appear to be wasting, taking longer to reach slaughter weights.

Nephritis has long considered to be associated with the bacteria *Leptospira interrogans*, however, more recent research has not been able to identify a consistent association between the two conditions. Other common conditions include porcine dermatitis and nephropathy syndrome (PDNS) and bacterial nephritis.

How common is it on-farm?

A study in 1990 found that 71% of herds in Western Australia recorded cases of nephritis, and that within those herds, approximately 10% of individuals were affected. Another study in 2019 found that 2% of slaughtered pigs destined for export had nephritis.

How is it spread?

If the nephritis affects multiple pigs, then it is spread through the transmission of bacteria and viruses. However, the cause is not well understood and can be related to a variety of viral or bacterial infections.

Other contributing factors can include poor pen cleanliness, low water intake, stress, inactivity and the age of the animal.

Carcass impacts

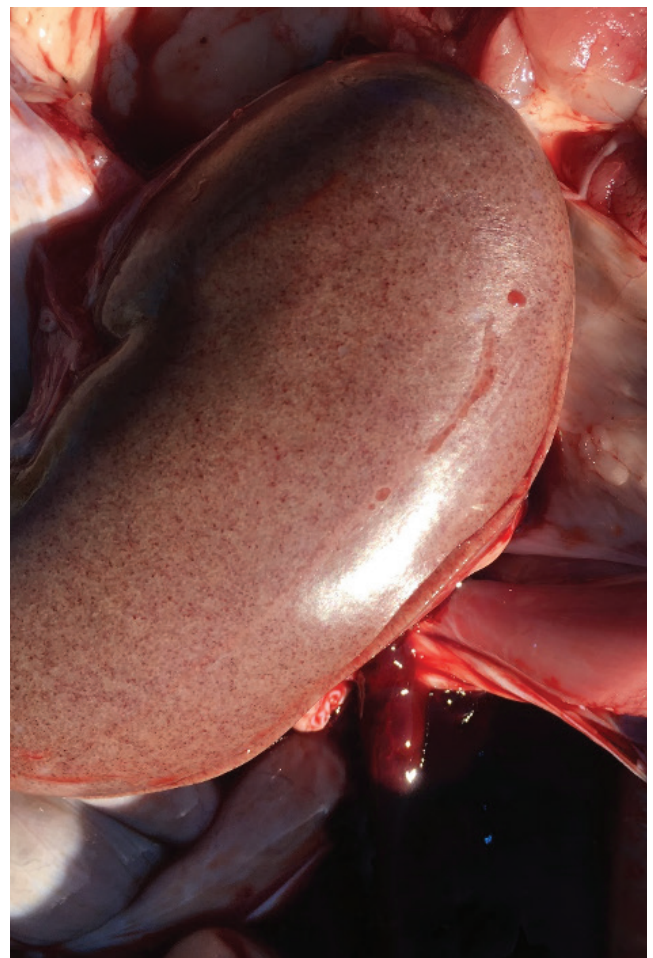
Kidneys of affected pigs are condemned.

Treatment

Treatment will depend upon the cause, severity and presence of other disease. It is advisable to seek veterinary advice to conduct tests for identification of the cause, target treatment and identify if the treatment is working.

Prevention

Maintain good biosecurity practices including the supply of sufficient clean water and maintenance of pen hygiene.



Nephritis with PCV 2 associated disease • Source: R Fogarty