

PERITONITIS

What is the disease?

Peritonitis is an infection of the peritoneum, which is the membrane lining of the abdomen. Signs of the disease can be sudden or appear gradually and usually involve abdominal pain, reluctance to move, weight loss and a 'tucked up' appearance. These signs may also be accompanied with an elevated temperature and/or a depressed appetite, however, these symptoms are not always seen.

How common is it on-farm?

Peritonitis is rarely diagnosed clinically in pigs, but it is not uncommon to identify signs of peritonitis in pigs after slaughter.

How is it spread?

Peritonitis may be the primary disease or secondary to another condition involving infections or non-infectious agents. A ruptured gastric ulcer or a perforated bowel can be the cause of the infection, external trauma, secondary to colonic serositis caused by bacterial enteritis or colitis, and parasitic migration. Other diseases that can cause peritonitis include pleuropneumonia, mycoplasmosis and Glasser's Disease.

Carcass impacts

Carcasses with peritonitis may have gastroenteritis, enlarged lymph glands, degeneration of tissue or organs and have fluid accumulated in the abdomen. This can lead to the removal and trimming of the effected parts from the carcass.

Treatment

After identification of the cause of the infection by a

veterinarian, treatment of peritonitis is commonly through treatment of the cause, rather than the actual case. Any response to treatment can be poor and euthanasia may be required in severe cases.

Prevention

Prevention of peritonitis directly is difficult, as it often occurs as a result of another disease. The best way of preventing peritonitis is to maintain good biosecurity and animal health practices to prevent the spread of bacteria and viruses. Treatment of other primary disease that has the potential to develop into peritonitis should also lower the risk of infection.



Peritonitis • Source: APL