

# Clinical Quiz

Mark White BVSc DPM MRCVS

34 KETWELL LANE, HEDON, HULL, NORTH HUMBERSIDE,  
HU12 8BP

An indoor breeder feeder farm of conventional health in a pig dense area has suffered raised mortality in growing pigs for some years. Currently the mortality from weaning to slaughter has averaged 11% over 12 months with 75% of these losses (i.e. approximately 8.2% of the growing pigs) dying as a result of chronic respiratory disease and condition loss. Sick pigs are housed in hospital yards and present as shown, variably in Figs. 1 and 2. Most pigs become affected between 9 and 14 weeks of age and some also have profuse watery diarrhoea. Some pigs die naturally; many are euthanased if they do not show signs of improvement in 7–10 days.

Piglets are vaccinated against enzootic pneumonia at weaning (average 25 days) and receive chlortetracycline in feed for 6–9 weeks and in hospital pens. Sow output for the previous 12 months has been 24.2 pigs weaned/sow/year.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

Answers appear on page

## QUESTIONS

(More than one answer may apply)

- 1. What are the most likely conditions causing the high mortality:**
  - a. Glassers disease
  - b. Enzootic pneumonia
  - c. PRDC
  - d. *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae*
  - e. All of these
- 2. Which infectious agents are most likely to be involved:**
  - a. Porcine circovirus Type 2 (PCV2)
  - b. Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRS)
  - c. Swine influenza
  - d. *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*
  - e. *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae*
- 3. What diagnostic approach would be most appropriate:**
  - a. Euthanasia and gross post mortem examination
  - b. Serology for porcine circovirus
  - c. Serology for *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*
  - d. Serology for PRRS
  - e. Histopathology on post mortem tissues from the respiratory tract
- 4. What agents are most likely to be implicated in the watery scour seen in some pigs:**
  - a. *Lawsonia intracellularis*
  - b. *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae*
  - c. PCV2
  - d. *Salmonella* sp
  - e. All of these
- 5. What action to control the long term disease would you advise:**
  - a. Depopulate the farm and repopulate with 'clean' stock
  - b. Vaccinate for PCV2
  - c. Vaccinate for PRRS
  - d. Partial depopulation - removal of all weaned pigs with cleaning of accommodation before allowing natural repopulation
  - e. Remove enzootic pneumonia vaccine
- 5. Realistically, given the disease situation and options available, what target mortality should be used to assess success of any intervention:**
  - a. 1%
  - b. 3%
  - c. 5%
  - d. 8%
  - e. 11%