

ANTIBIOTICS REDUCTION BY PIG WASH

A report by veterinarian Renate Baur. In her practice, she has washed over 200,000 piglets until now.

In general, the word hygiene has to be redefined. Today the question is where does hygiene start?

For quite some time more and more discussions are going on about the african swine fever, PED, clostridia type C, A, botulinum, extremely aggressive strains of E. coli as the Shigatoxin and multidrug-resistant bacteria such as MRSA, which are quite important in the in human medicine. A risk of infection is possibly due to the transport of animals and of course by purchase of animal material. The question is: how can I protect my stock from infection with such diseases, as long as in times of globalization animal transport and purchase of animals are quite common.



The issue of hygiene should not be seen just focused on the farm, but also consider the environment of the company and its acquisitions, e. g. feed supplies, animal supplies and incoming traffic of persons. Before I talk about my experiences with the piglets washing, here are some general recommendations.

Feed supplies and feed in general:

- Analyze the feed for toxins
- Keep samples stored for use if complaints of quality arise
- With own crop repeated cleaning 1-2 times and preservation with acid
- Calculation of proper feed rations
- Hygiene of feedstuffs starts at the entry gate, as latest findings give reason to suspect that diseases as PED may be introduced with feedstuffs (wheat, blood plasma) into the stock.

Hygiene within the farm:

- All in- all out method for stable compartments
- Correct and proper disinfection of all stable compartments
- Rodent control
- Treatment of animals with disposable cannula
- Vaccination of animals with the right needle length
- Carefully performed castration (like use of disposable scalpels)

Hygiene during transport:

- Animals transported in freshly disinfected trucks
- Provide transport-personnel with suits and boots from the farm
- Washing of animals with NEOPREDINOL® piglet detergent during unloading

The first washing tests with the NEOPREDINOL® piglet detergent are now about 1.5 years ago and meanwhile, we have washed proximately 200,000 piglets in my practice. The experiences can be assessed as thoroughly positive. Since making these first experiences with the washing of piglets, we could ascertain that

- Illness from staphylococcal hyicus, so-called *exsudative epidermitis* [greasy pig disease] is no longer relevant
- Cases of streptococcal meningitis were reduced by 60-70%

- Use of Amoxicillin in piglets has dropped by 80%
- The problem of cannibalism dropped significantly
- The germ pressure, created by stabling together piglets from various origins has decreased significantly. The reason is the equalization of the hygiene status by washing
- Illness of panaritium (foot rot) and arthritis was reduced significantly
- The claw health is promoted by standing in the foam bath with NEOPREDINOL®
- In one of my farms, the two-time washing was performed in parallel with other measures for the reduction of Salmonella infection. Within four weeks after the treatment the farm came from Salmonella category 2 back to category 1 - without any use of antibiotics or vaccines.

HANDLING THE WASHING WITH NEOPREDINOL® PIGLET DETERGENT:

The animals must be herded very close together for washing, so the NEOPREDINOL® detergent gets rubbed onto the piglets skin even better by themselves, and jumping back and forth (flight reaction) is reduced. The animals settle down again very quickly.

When repeating the washing, for example while changing from flat deck into the fattening barn, animals react without any stress to the washing, because they know it already. In my opinion, washing should be performed on all animals delivered into the premises, as well as when re-stabling animals in-house.

The washing itself is taken for granted now on many of my farms and handling has become easier, because manager wash animals themselves, either with the pressure washer and /or a foam lance - or livestock dealers / forwarder provide that job. Now, a foaming technology, the skumix® by the company Menno Chemie, was installed into a piglet transporter for Viehzentrale Südwest, Ulm, and the washing is performed directly during unloading. The hose from the truck is long enough to even wash the piglets directly in the entrance area of the stable. So washing at lower temperatures is not a problem, even in winter.



The required time is so minimal that washing can be done parallel with driving the piglets out of the truck, without delaying the unloading process.

In general it can be said that the germ pressure has dropped down in the farms with each delivery of piglets treated. The success of this measure sensitizes farmers and managers to implement other hygiene measures, too. Through consistent implementation of all hygiene measures, the pathogen pressure and the possibility of reinfection are reduced.

Our job as a veterinarian is to promote animal health and to reduce the use of antibiotics.

The new regulation for use of medications requires us to document such measures to reduce the use of antibiotics. We veterinarians will have to keep farmers and managers informed at a regular base. This way we ensure that our farms can develop and remain competitive.

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