

Pig Veterinary Society Casualty Pig

It's been a long gestation but the new version of the PVS Casualty Pig is now available. Access to the current version is a Red Tractor requirement.
The guidance can be reached via:

pvs-documents

The main changes include use of non-penetrative captive bolts for euthanasia of piglets and references to updated legislation. We would advise it is read by all staff involved on farm with euthanasia.

African Swine Fever Origin

There has been a lot of speculation as to the origin of the ASF virus currently afflicting Spain. Recent genome sequencing shows this to be within genotype II (which is the predominant genotype in Europe) but is a strain called Sp25 which is in a new genetic group #29.

Unfortunately, this degree of testing is not carried out in all countries. So, it's not possible to say if this originated in Spain or elsewhere but its most closely related to older Russian strains detected in 2019.

The virus lacks markers associated with vaccine viruses and the random nature of mutation in the vaccine make it very unlikely to be a vaccine strain, nor does it look like a recombination virus.

Whatever the origin, it is virulent and causes death in wild boars, and we must continue to exercise all pressure on the Government to police our borders effectively.

WATOK

Until recently euthanasia on farm has been carried out under the presumption that this is emergency killing for the welfare of the animal and fell outside the remit of the WATOK (Welfare of animals at time of killing). APHA are now interpreting the law that killing on a commercial pig farm with penetrative or non-penetrative Captive Bolt does require a WATOK license. The link to apply is:

Apply for a Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (WATOK) licence - GOV.UK

Only APHA vets can carry out the training, but once granted, certificates last indefinitely. You do need to read the codes carefully as requirements will vary farm to farm but as a minimum will need D11, D12a, D14 (pithing), D42 (restraint), D51, D52 and D54.

Please speak to your unit vet for further guidance before applying.

Maintaining your Dosatron

As with anything with moving parts it needs maintaining and your Dosatron is no exception.

Please be aware when working on your Dosatron of previous products used in it and use the correct PPE when servicing it.

When using soluble solutions, your Dosatron should be periodically dismantled and rinsed in warm water to dissolve any residues of the previous products used. This is a good opportunity to check for any wear or damage to the seals and body of the Dosatron. The suction tube and filter that goes into the stock solution container needs cleaning to prevent it from becoming clogged up and if damaged replace them.

Flush the Dosatron with fresh water between different products to reduce the risk of any cross contamination.

The seals on the Dosatron should be replaced at least every twelve months to prevent wear induced leaks.

If possible, disconnect your Dosatron when not in use to reduce any unnecessary wear and tear.

Paul Thompson Update

Paul has worked at Garth for 40 years and been our Managing Director for 10 years, skillfully leading us all through good times, fun times and some tough times. Paul has decided that he has done his “management bit” and will step away from this to concentrate on what he enjoys most – **being a pig vet**!

Please be assured that Paul’s service to his clients and involvement in the business **will continue and remain completely unchanged**.