

Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS)

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Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS), a viral disease caused by PRRS virus (PRRSV) in pigs. The virus causes reproductive failure in pregnant sows and respiratory disease in age of pigs (Zimmerman et al., 2019). The disease was first identified in the year 1987 in United States of America followed by 1989 in Japan and in 1990 in Germany. In India, first outbreak of the disease was occurred in the year 2013 among the pig population of Mizoram. Apart from domestic pigs, feral swine and wild boars, no other species are known to be naturally infected with PRRSV. There is no zoonotic risk and it is not contagious for human cell. Primarily, the disease is transmitted via direct contact. However, it may also spread with infected excreta, semen and fomites. Houseflies and mosquitoes can also spread the disease within a short distance from the epicentre of outbreak. The reproductive impairment in the affected animal is characterised by sterility, mummification, abortions, stillbirths and the delivery of weak piglets that often die soon after birth from respiratory disease and secondary complications. Older pigs may show mild symptoms with secondary infections. Detection of PRRSV can be ascertained by virus isolation and the detection of nucleic acids and viral proteins (WOAH, 2021). No specific treatment is available for PRRS. Broad-spectrum antibiotics can control secondary infections. Suppurative treatment may alleviate the complications of the affected animals.

References

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