

A Pigs - HIGH Treatment Success

Full flesh from above Slightly drooped ears
Trouble breathing Dimmed, red eyes
Slightly gaunt flank Signs of depression
Fever



B Pigs - MODERATE Treatment Success

Gaunt flank Rough hair coat
Crust around eyes Listless ears
Shoulder blade and spine showing Pushed around by pen mates
Uncomfortable posture Decreased body condition



C Pigs - LOW Treatment Success

Extremely gaunt and flesh loss Very skinny, bones showing
Signs of lameness Poor hair coat
Crust around eyes Struggling to breathe
Listless ears Depressed
Not able to keep up with pen mates



Importance of Early Detection

A literature review by Weary et al. states that changes in individual pig behavior can be difficult to observe unless changes are pronounced and detection is usually only observed when obvious behavioral changes can be seen such as lameness and depression. Animal caretakers need to work on identifying sick pigs before severe clinical signs are seen, that if not treated, can lead to pig mortality. Every pig in every pen needs to be looked at every day and cared for on an individual basis. Caregivers should observe each pig for 1 to 2 seconds. The health and economic impact of sick pigs can be greatly reduced by early detection of illness (Fernández-Carrión et al. 2017).

A study compared caretakers that completed an educational program on animal care taking skills through Zoetis to standard caretaker training. Early, moderate, or advanced clinical signs were used to classify sick pigs in the nursery phase. Pigs that were cared for by caretakers that completed the educational program had a significantly lower mortality rate and total cost of production as well as a greater end of nursery weight (Pantoja et al. 2013, Table 1.).

When a pig is treated as an A pig, it has a higher probability of survival compared to a pig treated as a C pig. An unpublished study looked at the effect of timeliness of treatment on mortality during a severe clinical multifactorial respiratory outbreak using the IPC classifications. The study found that when A pigs were treated they had a 6.7% mortality rate, B pigs had 9.8%, and C pigs had a significantly higher mortality rate at 31.6% (Figure 1.). The earlier a sick pig is treated, the more likely they are to respond to treatment.

Figure 1. **Effect of Timeliness of Treatment on Mortality**

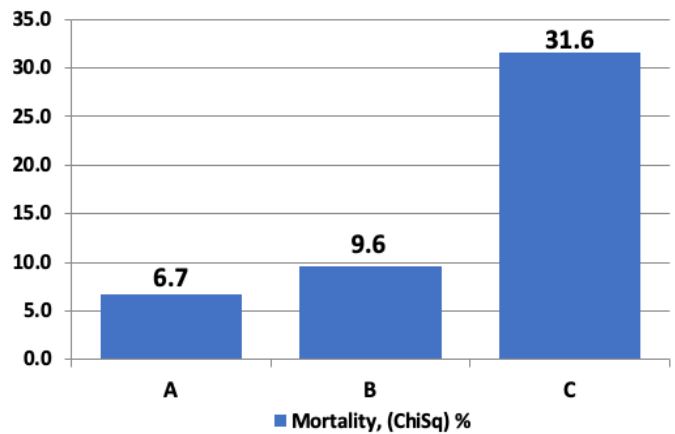


Table 1. Effect of caregiver coaching on production outcomes in wean to finish sites
Least square mean \pm SE

Parameter	Non-educational Program	Educational Program	P-value
No. of nursery groups	72	83	NA
Starting inventory per group	2395 \pm 110	2288 \pm 89	0.05
Mortality rate (%)	3.64 \pm 0.004	3.12 \pm 0.001	<.001*
Weaning weight (kg)	5.90 \pm 0.032	5.84 \pm 0.0047	0.88
End of nursery weight (kg)	25.51 \pm 0.28	26.12 \pm 0.20	0.02*
Treat cost (US \$)	1.08 \pm 0.08	0.54 \pm 0.06	<.001*

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Zoetis Collaborates with the National Pork Board to Extend Access to its Longstanding Pig Care Training Program. (2016, February 3). <https://www.zoetisus.com/news-and-media/zoetis-collaborates-with-the-national-pork-board-to-extend-access-to-its-longstanding-pig-care-training-program.aspx>

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