

### Pregnancy Scanning Training

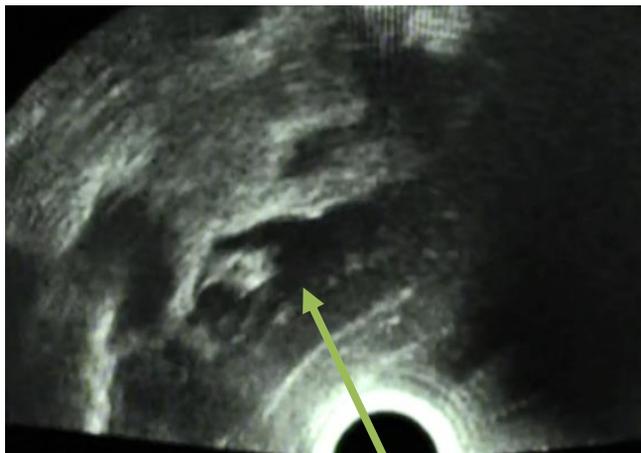
Determining if a sow is pregnant can be done at a much earlier stage using an ultrasound scanner than if carried out visually. Most farms carry out pregnancy diagnosis by ultrasound.

A visual ultrasound scanner works by emitting ultrasound waves in pulses, which pass through the sow's body. These waves will meet body tissues of different densities as it passes through, such as air (which is low density) and bone (which is a high density tissue).

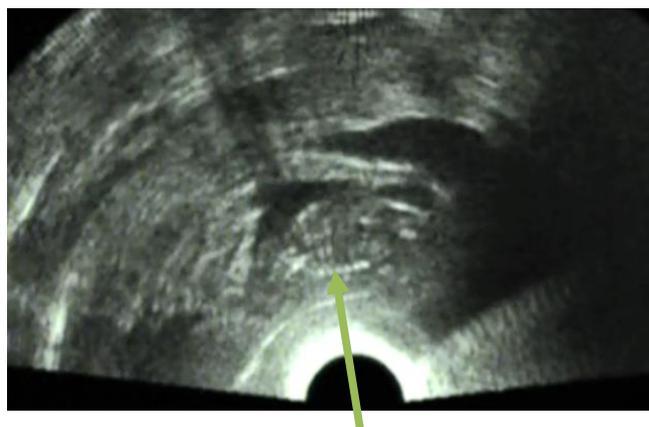
If the wave passes through a low density area the ultrasound waves continue on, but as they meet more dense tissues some of these waves are reflected back to the scanner. This is shown on the screen as white, so that bone, which is the most dense tissue in the body, reflects back all the waves and so is seen as a bright white light.

Pregnancy scanning sows correctly is an important management tool, and training for new-starters to the technique or a refresher course is available from one of our nurses with plenty of scanning training experience.

For further details please contact Sylvia on 01765 602396.



*Scan at 4 weeks of pregnancy - embryo is shown as a white area within a black fluid-filled space*



*At 8 weeks of pregnancy, the skeleton of the piglet can be seen*

### Medicine Orders & Medicine Changes

Each of our clients' farms have a permitted medicine list that is updated at every Vet visit. Referring back to these lists regularly is useful to pick up any changes in medicine information, particularly changes in withdrawal periods.

Many of our clients are now placing their medicine orders with dispensary through a farm specific order sheet that is either faxed or emailed in. For any clients interested in using this medicine ordering system, please contact Sylvia on 01765 602396.



## Red Tractor & Kiwa PAI

Red Tractor has been reviewing the delivery of its assurance standards and for greater efficiency has decided to consolidate the certification bodies that it works with and focus on a smaller number of partners. As a result the removal of the Kiwa PAI license to carry out Red Tractor assurance standards visits to pig farms has been agreed.

Clients that use Kiwa PAI will need to transfer their membership to one of the three other certification bodies (Acoura, NSF or SAI Global). All current Kiwa PAI certificates will remain valid and in force, so a transfer of assurance schemes does not need to take place until the certificate expiry date.

Red Tractor will write to Kiwa PAI members around 4 to 6 weeks before their renewal date to explain what they need to do. Assessments that are due to members as part of their current membership will be completed by Kiwa PAI by the end of May 2016.

As we send in Quarterly Vet Reports to assurance bodies after carrying out every vet visit, please can we ask that any affected clients inform us of any changes in membership and when it occurs so that we can send future QVR reports to the new certification body.

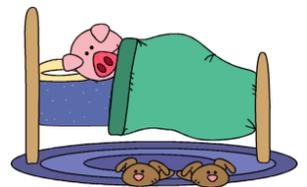
Please speak to your vet about any questions you may have.



## Current Clinical Trends – What are we seeing out there?...

At the moment we are seeing an increase in respiratory disease, with coughing particularly affecting recently weaned pigs along with signs of viral circulation (sneezing, snotty noses, enlarged eyelids, tear staining). Many farms are testing positive for circulating 'flu and/or PRRS virus, and there are a number of secondary infections occurring, including diseases such as Glasser's. [Click here](#) to access our articles on diseases including Glasser's disease.

Please keep monitoring the temperature and ventilation of your buildings. Significant temperature changes are stressful to pigs and inadequate ventilation will result in an increase in pathogens in the environment. In naturally ventilated buildings, temperatures need to be monitored and altered accordingly for the pigs throughout the day – do not forget overnight when cold air and draughts at pig level can occur while no-one is around.



Please speak to your vet about any questions you may have.

## Feedback

Please let us know if there is anything that you would like including, or more information on, in a future newsletter.

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