

# Common Diseases of Swine---Causes, Symptoms, Treatment.

In all cases, where the patient will consume the drugs to be given, in food or drink, it is wise to give them that way, but in many cases the appetite is so impaired or the drugs have such odor or taste that the patient will not voluntarily consume them, and it is necessary to drench. We have, in other issues, remarked that great care is necessary in drenching any animal; this is particularly marked in swine. In order that the patient may be drenched it is, of course, necessary that the mouth be held on a higher level than the throat. In order to do this (unless the patient be very small) it is necessary to enclose the upper jaw in a slip rope, with the rope above the tusks, and have an attendant hold the rope with the head at the desired angle. Under these conditions the pig persists in squealing. When he

squeals the epiglottis (the little valve that covers the entrance into the wind-pipe) is necessarily open, hence, if fluid be poured into the mouth more or less will enter the wind-pipe, pass down to the bronchial tubes, and either cause death by suffocation in a few minutes or set up mechanical bronchitis, which frequently causes death in a few days. Many hundreds of pigs are killed in this way, and the owner often wonders what causes death, he often thinking that it was poison, and if the medicine were made up or administered by a veterinarian, he will be blamed and in some cases sued for the value of the pig. Hence, we repeat "great care must be taken." Probably the safest method is to put the liquid in a bottle and force over its neck the end of a rubber hose 6 or 8 inches in length, insert the free end of the hose

into the side of the mouth between the molars. The pig will then cease to squeal and devote his attention to the destruction of the hose. While chewing this he will draw the fluid out and swallow it. Another plan is to place an old boot-leg or other contrivance of that nature into the mouth and pour the liquid into this, but the rubber hose gives the most satisfaction.

It will be noticed that a great many of the diseases discussed are due to high feeding and confined quarters, hence, can be prevented by arranging conditions that will ensure regular exercise. In fact, careful and intelligent feeding and general treatment tend to prevent disease, probably in a more marked degree in swine than in other classes of stock.

Disease and Cause.	Symptoms.	Treatment.
<b>DIARRHŒA IN YOUNG PIGS.</b> Improper feeding of dam, as decomposing or rotten food; close, damp quarters.	Passage of liquid or semi-liquid feces, usually of a greyish color and foul odor, followed by loss of appetite and weakness.	Preventive—consists in keeping dam in healthful quarters, giving regular exercise and food of good quality. Curative—Give a dessert spoonful of raw linseed oil. In 8 to 10 hours $\frac{1}{2}$ dram sub-nitrate of bismuth and 3 drops laudanum in a teaspoonful of new milk every 6 or 7 hours. If animals be weak when treatment is commenced omit the oil.
<b>THUMPS.</b> Lack of exercise and high feeding. Diseases of the lungs or heart may cause it.	A jerking movement of the body, accompanied by thumping sounds during contractions; a bulging out of the flanks and drawing in of the ribs.	Preventive—Give young pigs room for exercise, only moderate quantities of strong food, good ventilation and plenty of sunshine. Curative—Move to proper quarters; give $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 oz. raw oil or Epsom salts (according to size); light feeding.
<b>INFECTIOUS SORE MOUTH.</b> (Usually seen in pigs under 2 months old), caused by filth; dirty quarters, filthy feeding troughs; mud holes and manure in yard; poor ventilation; sleeping in manure heaps or stacks; decomposed food.	Sore mouth, refusal to nurse, dullness, increase in temperature, inflamed patches on mouth and on lips and gums, these become ulcers and refuse to heal, in severe cases the snout and lips swell and interfere with respiration.	Preventive—Keep in clean, well-ventilated quarters. Curative—Isolate the diseased; irrigate mouth with 1 oz. boracic acid to a quart of water 3 times daily. If ulcers form touch once daily with a pencil of the nitrate of silver.
<b>TUBERCULOSIS.</b> A specific virus usually taken in feces of tubercular cattle or milk of diseased cows.	Diffused tuberculosis may be present without causing clinical derangement. The most common symptom shown is general unthriftiness; capricious appetite, irregular digestion; when the respiratory organs are involved there is usually a cough.	Preventive—Keeping pigs away from infected fodder and under good, sanitary conditions. Curative treatment is ineffective.
<b>CONSTIPATION.</b> Improper food and lack of exercise, overfeeding on dry diet; poorly ventilated quarters.	Frequent and often ineffectual attempts to defecate. The excrement dry and hard and often coated with slimy mucous. Loss of appetite; abdominal pain.	Preventive—Good, sanitary conditions and laxative food. Curative—Give 1 to 4 oz. raw oil or Epsom salts; rectal injections of soapy water; repeat laxative if necessary in 12 to 18 hours; laxative food and regular exercise.
<b>CRIPPLING.</b> High feeding and want of exercise; sleeping in damp, cold quarters, or on cement floors.	Lameness in one or more legs; patient lies most of the time; dragging hind quarters along; often inability to rise or stand when lifted; loss of appetite.	Preventive—Allowing or forcing regular exercise; laxative food; grass in summer and raw roots in winter. Providing good quarters and sleeping quarters with wooden floors. Curative—Purge as for constipation; feed lightly on laxative food, give 1 to 3 grains nux vomica 3 times daily; exercise as soon as patient can move.
<b>BRONCHITIS.</b> Damp, dirty, confined quarters; inhalation of steam or smoke. In many cases appears to be contagious.	Coughing and sneezing, which usually gradually increases in severity, followed by loss of appetite, weakness and later death. Some cases become chronic, and while the patient continues to live it does not thrive.	Fumigate with the fumes of burning sulphur, as for grub in the head in sheep. Repeat in 10 days and again if necessary. When the disease becomes general it is probably wise to dispose of the herd and thoroughly disinfect the premises before introducing fresh stock.
<b>INVERSION OF RECTUM OR PROLAPUS ANI.</b> Excessive straining, the result of constipation or acute diarrhœa.	Protrusion of a greater or less portion of the rectum through the anus.	Often ineffective. Treat for constipation or diarrhœa as indicated. Wash protruded portion with alum solution 1 oz. to pint of warm water; return and apply truss or stitch to prevent re-inversion. Remove truss, etc. occasionally to allow defecation and inject a little of the solution into rectum; re-arrange truss.
<b>QUINSY.</b> Exposure to cold, drafts and dampness.	Difficulty in swallowing; tongue usually protrudes; saliva flows from mouth; swelling of lower jaw and neck; swelling of the glands in back of mouth.	Cast animal and secure him, hold mouth open with clevice or other device, scarify the swollen glands until they bleed. As soon as blood flows liberate the patient. Apply mustard to throat and wrap with flannel cloths.
<b>LICE.</b> Exposure to infected animals or premises. Poor food and filthy surroundings predispose.	Uneasiness and itchiness, and the presence of dark-colored insects of considerable size on back, greyish or yellowish on belly and with long legs.	Disinfect quarters or remove pigs to non-infected quarters. Boil 2 oz. stavesacre seeds in 1 gallon vinegar for two hours, add vinegar to make a gallon. Dress the animals with this, or use a 5 per cent. solution of one of the coal-tar antiseptics, or oil or grease.
<b>APOPLEXY.</b> High feeding and want of exercise.	While eating, pig stops suddenly, is restless and stupid, eyes bloodshot; foams from mouth, probably falls down, and in a few minutes revives and appears all right, or may die.	Preventive—Allow plenty exercise when feeding highly. Curative—Remove about 1 pint of blood by tying a cord tightly above knee and then open the vein on the inside of leg. If necessary operate on both legs; purge and feed lightly and give exercise.
<b>SCALY DISEASES OF SKIN.</b> Extreme heat in summer and extreme cold in winter, and other causes which are not understood; not contagious.	Formation of pimples which dry up, and the scales peel off in flakes; skin may become inflamed, thickened, and intersected in all directions with furrows, filled with white, powdery matter; hair falls out.	If patient be fat purge with 1 to 3 oz. Epsom Salts and follow up with $\frac{1}{2}$ -dram doses of acetate of potash 3 times daily. Feed on laxative food. Keep out of the sun, or in comfortable quarters in cold weather. Dress the parts twice daily with 1 part carbolic acid to 30 parts sweet oil.
<b>WORMS.</b> Consumption of food that contains the larvæ.	When in sufficient numbers to cause clinical symptoms, general unthriftiness will be noticed, impaired and often capricious appetite. In many cases worms will be noticed in the excrement. If in sufficient numbers to occlude the passage death soon occurs.	Fast for 12 to 18 hours. Mix 1 part oil of turpentine in 7 parts new milk; give 2 to 6 tablespoonfuls (according to size) of the mixture to each. Fast for 3 or 4 hours longer. Repeat treatment every 10 days as long as necessary. <span style="float: right;">WHIP.</span>