

Detection of new and emerging threats to GB pigs

Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus

Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSv) also known as 'blue-ear disease' was first identified in British pigs in the early 1990s and has become a significant endemic disease and cause of economic loss in affected herds.

The North American (NA, genotype 2) strain of PRRSv, however, has never been detected in pigs in Great Britain. The introduction of this strain represents a potential threat to the health and welfare of British pigs because immunity to European PRRSv (genotype 1) which is present in this country would not provide protection and genotype 2 strains may cause more severe disease.

An AHVLA test (known as a PCR) for diagnosis of PRRSv will distinguish the North American strain from the European one providing an additional reason to seek a diagnosis in suspected outbreaks of PRRS. Diagnostic investigations will also identify other infections causing disease.

Not all blue ears are due to PRRS!

Seek an accurate diagnosis for respiratory and other diseases



AHVLA offers comprehensive diagnosis of disease in pigs

Speak to your veterinary surgeon about investigation of outbreaks

It can be difficult to determine whether PRRS virus is involved in disease outbreaks without laboratory testing. As it is an immunosuppressive virus, PRRSv may underlie other diseases such as Glässer's disease, pasteurellosis, and meningitis and septicaemia due to *Streptococcus suis*. Establishing a diagnosis, especially when the disease is particularly severe, unusual or difficult to control, allows suitable control measures to be implemented. This can include identifying antibiotics likely to be effective for bacterial disease.