

Cause of Lameness	Clinical Signs	Treatment	Prevention
Infection			
Erysipelas	Hot, swollen joints, unwillingness to stand, stiffness, anorexic, high temperature, diamond skin lesions, cyanosis	Penicillin and anti-inflammatory treatment, e.g. Ketofen	Vaccination
Foot rot – a number of conditions where infection penetrates the claw of the sow either through damage to the sole, heel or toe or via fissures (sandcracks) in the hoof wall, or by tracking up the white line. Resulting infections can penetrate deep into the bones / tendons and joints often resulting in abscesses bursting out at the coronary band known as 'bush foot'	Lameness depends on the number of feet involved. Affected sows often walk on tip-toe and may sit like dogs. More commonly outside claws are affected. These are warm and painful and an abscess may burst out via a tract.	In severe cases treatment is often hopeless and euthanasia should be considered. In less severe cases or if caught early treatment with antibiotic, e.g. penicillin and anti-inflammatory treatment can help.	Avoid abrasive, sharp stony surfaces where possible. Wet, unhygienic, poorly bedded areas should also be avoided.
Joint ill – infection into the joint via a penetrating wound or via the blood system	Hot swollen painful joint	Antibiotic, e.g. Penicillin and anti-inflammatory treatment	Avoid potential areas or injuries by proper maintenance of the sow environment
Mycoplasma arthritis	A common cause of lameness in recently purchased breeding stock often seen as a sudden lameness lasting 3 – 10 days	Tiamulin for 3 days	Select breeding stock negative for this, or medicate for a short period on arrival
Genetic / conformation causing leg weakness and an increased susceptibility to injury	Defects in conformation can predispose to lameness, e.g. straight legs, uneven claws. Also some lameness is as a result of fast growth rates being genetically selected for.	None	Good gilt selection is imperative by the breeding companies. Feed gilts an appropriate ration to prevent them growing too quickly. Provide a suitable environment to minimise any injury / trauma to incoming stock.

Things to remember:

- ❖ Any sow not responding to treatment should be culled as soon as possible for welfare reasons.
- ❖ If a sow can walk reasonably well but has a noticeable limp it should be fit to transport but may be required to be penned separately. Any sow lamer than this should not be transported and should be euthanased on farm.
- ❖ Treat any lame sows promptly and appropriately to get the best response.
- ❖ Remember to maintain exceptional biosecurity measures and to be very vigilant in the face of the foot and mouth outbreak.

Is it fit for transport to slaughter? – Rules / criteria:

- 1) **Must be able to weight bear on all four legs**
- 2) **Must be able to walk on and off the wagon unaided**
- 3) **Must be sent to the nearest appropriate abattoir**
- 4) **Must be penned separately and sent with a Casualty Certificate**
- 5) **Must not deteriorate on the journey**