

A SIMPLE METHOD FOR CORRECTING RECTAL PROLAPSE IN PIGS

R.G.A. Douglas

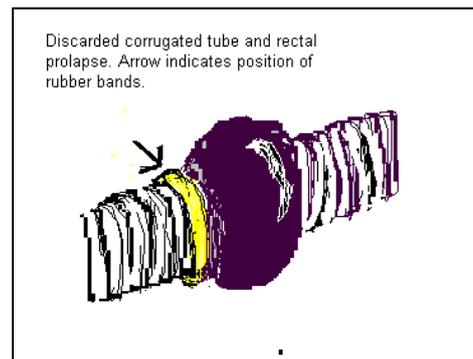
Veterinary Record (1985) 117, 129

Rectal prolapse occurs in most pig herds and affects adult pigs as well as growing pigs. To the farmer it is an inconvenience because cases require isolation and, or, surgical amputation and it is stressful to the pig. Diagnosis of rectal prolapse is not difficult but care should be taken that the prolapse does not contain other organs.

A simple method for the correction of rectal prolapse in pigs is described here.

The following materials are required: First, an 18 to 20 cm length of corrugated (helical) tube, obtainable from an electrician as electrical conduit (the diameter of the tube needs to be 2 to 3 cm for sows and 1 to 1.5 cm for weaners and fat pigs); and secondly, two heavy-duty rubber bands (two are needed in case one breaks).

The affected pig should be restrained and the corrugated tube gently inserted into the lumen of the prolapsed rectum - the halfway-point on the tube needs to be inserted as far as the anal sphincter. The rubber bands should be stretched over the prolapse and placed as near as possible to the perianal skin; they must be tight enough to stop the blood supply to the prolapse. Faeces may move down the tube but in most instances the faeces block the tube; this presents no problem because the necrotic prolapse drops off in five to seven days, taking the corrugated tube with it (Fig 1). The pig then passes faeces normally.



The technique is best carried out on fresh prolapses, i.e. under 24 hours old. The pig can be left in its group, as the biting of the prolapse by pen mates is considered unimportant once the rubber bands are in position.

This system of correction allows the affected pig to remain in its group and thus disturbance is minimal to the pig, to its pen mates and to the farmer.

The technique has been developed over a period of about 12 months, and the described method has now been carried out satisfactorily on 12 successive cases. Problems which occurred in earlier cases included loose rubber bands, non-corrugated or inadequately corrugated tube and occasional sharp edges to the tube.

This technique allows a farmer to treat rectal prolapses cheaply and efficiently. The pig shows little apparent objection to the technique. Veterinary supervision in the first instance is considered desirable and kits could then be made available.