

## Pneumonia

Pneumonia can be caused by one or a combination of several things. It can be bacterial or viral. It appears most times in cold conditions but can be any time of the year. Other contributing factors can be stress, over-crowded conditions especially with poor ventilation, high levels of excrement gases, and even parasites.

Symptoms can be: Loss of Appetite, Coughing, Lethargic, (laying down or slow movement when other hogs are active), Shallow Breathing, and Temperature.

Treatment is with antibiotics based on age, size and weight. Mortality rate can be high if not treated.

Pneumonia is highly contagious and should be caught and treated early. Most hogs huddle together when resting or sleeping making infection transfer easy and likely.

Normal temperature of hogs is 101 degrees. Temperature is taken rectally with a regular thermometer dedicated to hogs and sterilized after each use. If a thermometer is not available, feel the ears and nose for abnormal warmth.

Pneumonia progresses quickly in particular in young pigs but all hogs can be infected. If pneumonia is diagnosed it's probably best to treat the herd. It can cause permanent lung damage in young pigs meaning recurrent health problems in the future and not being as thrifty.

Know your hogs. Watch individual behaviors so you know when something is different. Keep your hogs as stress free as possible by handling illnesses or injuries swiftly. Control predator issues to the best of your abilities. Provide enough space for exercise. Provide shade, mud holes, proper diet, and shelter. Keep living and sleeping areas clean and freshened.

An overload of parasites, (worms in particular) can also cause coughing and lethargic behavior. Monitor your hogs for parasites and treat accordingly to more easily identify other problems if or when they appear. Parasites can also carry disease.

Consider isolation if you have a hog that appears out of sorts until you can identify the problem and treat if necessary.

## Swine Flu

Swine Flu usually appears in colder temperatures but can be anytime of the year. Symptoms and spread of illness are similar to pneumonia but you may also see discharge from the nose and eyes. Transmission to humans is rare but does happen. Hogs are also susceptible to Avian Flu and Human Flu viruses. It's spread by close contact with infected pigs or hogs. There are specific vaccines for swine flu however it's much like the human flu which frequently changes. In most cases it's recommended to treat the symptoms for example the temperature, and provide an easily digestible diet with access to plenty of fluids. Death can and does happen however mortality rate is low with swine flu. You should also consider isolation of infected pigs and hogs. Isolation helps by decreasing rate of spread and it also allows you to better monitor and treat those that are infected.