

The Distance and Physical Examination

PDF LINK:

<http://www.carrsconsulting.com/thepig/teaching/vet437murdochpigs/disorders2clinical.pdf>

The Distance Examination

Follow a set procedure to examine the animal



Assess the pig's normal behaviour, its locomotion and its response to its owners. Enquire about eating, urination and defecating patterns.



Remember that the pig may live in a group (sounder) at home and other pigs may be presenting with the same clinical signs



Enquire about the recent history of the pig

The Physical Examination

Examination of an cooperative pig



Make contact both vocally and physically. Assess the body condition. Check breathing rate



Take the rectal temperature. Normal 39°C. Examine the external genitalia.



Palpate the lumbar muscles, hind legs, abdomen and mammary area.



Some pigs may allow auscultation – but this is generally unrewarding



Pigs like to be scratched particularly behind the ear and along the back. Check the head of the pig for any discharges from the nose, eyes, mouth



When handling the head watch that the pig does not try and bite



Examine the feet while standing



Grasp the pig's front legs firmly. The pig is likely to vocally object.



Place the pig on its rear, holding its back with your knees



Palpation of the limbs should start at the top and work down the limb to the feet

Collect any samples are required. A blood sample can be obtained in this sitting position from the jugular vein

Normal Parameters

Temperature	38.2 C
Pulse	70-80 beats/min
Respiratory Rate	10-20 breaths/min