

HEALTH ASPECTS OF SWINE FARMS IN MOSSORÓ, RIO GRANDE DO NORTE

(ASPECTOS SANITÁRIOS DAS CRIAÇÕES DE SUÍNOS EM MOSSORÓ, RIO GRANDE DO NORTE)

A. I. LEITE^{1*}, I. S. DUTRA²

This study performed a diagnosis of the health aspects of small pig farms in Mossoró, Rio Grande do Norte. The city, the largest in the area and the second most populous in the state, is located 285 km west of Natal. The research included a descriptive study conducted during the first half of 2013, when 17 pig farms were visited, all of which leading pig suppliers to the slaughterhouses in the municipality. We used a structured questionnaire containing information on the health aspects of pigs completed during a visit to the farms. It was found that all properties (100%) lacked technology, the owners were 58 years old on average, had low education (64.7% illiterate or up to four years of study) and family income ranged from two five minimum wages. The pig was the main activity in 58.8% of the properties and the number of animals varied between 10 and 400. In most farms the pigs were reared in confinement (52.9%) or semi-confinement (41.2%) systems, in large pens with dirt floors and poor sanitation, without control of vectors/rodents (100%). The water supplied to the animals, untreated and visibly contaminated, came from wells (70.6%) most of the time. The food was based mainly on human food scraps and corn. The carcasses of dead animals were mainly left in the open (52.9%). The pigs were in contact with other animal species (poultry - 94.1%, dogs - 76.5%, goats/sheep - 58.8%, cattle - 47.1% and cats - 41.2%). In 100% of the farms, there was neither a vaccination program for the animals nor veterinary care and the owners never attended training on health management of pigs. It can be concluded that the pig farms in Mossoro, RN, have poor sanitary conditions, with risks to public health.

¹ Doutorando em Medicina Veterinária, UNESP, Jaboticabal-SP.

² Docente Orientador, Pós Graduação em Medicina Veterinária, UNESP, Jaboticabal-SP.