

# FEVER

## What is the condition?

Fever is characterized as an abnormal increase in body temperature. Fever can be described as either septic (caused by viruses, bacteria, protozoa, fungi) or aseptic (caused by tissue necrosis, chemicals, surgery, anaphylaxis) depending on whether an infection is present or not. A fever can also indicate a range of diseases. Fever induced by stress can occur, but this is less common.

A fever can present as reddening of the skin, increased respiratory rate and a temperature range of 39-40°C. These signs are also common with heat stress.

## How is it spread?

Fever does not spread however the causal agent, if it is viral or bacterial, has the potential to be spread between pigs and within the environment. Fever in pigs can cause:

- chills and sweating
- dehydration
- increased body temperature
- elevated pulse and respiration
- depression and dullness
- anorexia and severe constipation
- diarrhoea and vomiting
- breath that is urine- or phenolic-like in odour
- shock, convulsion and coma.

## Carcass impacts

Fever will result in carcasses being condemned.

## Treatment

The cause of the fever will determine the treatment. A single affected animal in an inspected line may mean that no treatment is required. Multiple affected animals need to be investigated by a veterinarian. For bacterial infections antibiotics may be used. Isolate any animals with a fever in hospital pens to reduce the potential for spread.

## Prevention

To prevent potential spread of disease, ensure good hygiene and biosecurity practices are followed on farm. When animals present with fever, isolate until a diagnosis is established by your veterinarian and treatment implemented.