



Welcome to our autumn edition and what would be, in any ordinary year, the start of the **Garth Pig Club Season!** Unfortunately, despite a little glimmer of hope earlier on, it does not look like the pandemic situation is going to be resolved this year.

However, in the true spirit of COVID resourcefulness, we thought we would attempt a **ZOOM Garth Pig Club** meeting this year.

Please join us on **30<sup>th</sup> November, 6.30pm.**

Jennifer Lock of Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd will present “**Cleaning and disinfection: what we can learn from the poultry industry**” which I am sure will promote plenty of thought and discussion.

Please register your interest and contact email address by contacting [rachel@garthvet.co.uk](mailto:rachel@garthvet.co.uk) who will forward you the link to join us in due course.

## (D)rat, it’s that time of year again!

Peak rat activity occurs in autumn/winter as rain forces rats above ground and the colder weather moves them indoors (all they need is a gap of 15mm) in search of warmth and easy feed access. Rats are a pest for a reason – they can damage near enough every part of a pig building in their quest to wear down their constantly growing incisor teeth (rats are reportedly responsible for 20% of all fires due to electrical faults); they eat (a lot) – about 25-30g/rat/day which doesn’t sound like a lot until you hear that there are approximately 120 million rats in the UK; and, they can and will transmit disease to your pigs.

It is estimated that an infestation of 100 rats will produce 1 tonne of droppings and 500 litres of urine in a year – that is a lot of potential disease spread. Especially when you consider the most common diseases involved – Salmonellosis, Leptospirosis, Erysipelas; and the potential of Aujeszky’s and Foot and Mouth disease.

Rodent control shouldn’t just reside with baiting – rats will only take bait if their access to their usual feed source is restricted. It is essential to prevent rat access to feed and habitats:

- Prompt removal of feed spillages
- Secure feed storage
- Clear debris & scrap
- Clear vegetation around buildings (increases predation of rats)
- Cover drains and gullies

Follow the AHDB guide on integrated rodent control:

**Survey** – monitor for rodent activity at least weekly

**Clean** – effective hygiene will make the environment inhospitable for rodents

**Proof** – prevent rodents gaining access to buildings and feed stores

**Control** – trapping and baiting (involve a licensed pest controller if necessary)

	PIGS IN BUILDINGS	EMPTY BUILDINGS
SURVEY	Ongoing surveillance for rodent activity	
CLEAN	Ongoing hygiene	
PROOF	Ongoing proofing	<b>Intense proofing</b>
CONTROL	Ongoing control	<b>Intense control</b>

## Handling Pigs

Handling pigs appropriately at all times is an essential part of good pig keeping. AHDB have recently updated their resources on good pig handling and we would strongly encourage producers to ensure all staff moving and handling pigs have seen this content:

<https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/moving-and-handling-pigs>

In addition, there is a link to a podcast on this topic from Georgina Crayford of Red Tractor:

<https://audioboom.com/posts/7691166-pork-why-is-good-handling-so-important-for-everyone-in-the-chain>

## New Combined ID PCV and M.hyo Product

HIPRA have launched **MHYOSPHERE PCV ID**. This is the first ready to use, all in one intradermal needle-free vaccine against M.hyo and PCV.

The product is administered via a 0.2ml dose from 2 weeks of age using the **HIPRADERMIC** vaccination device.

This new vaccination device from HIPRA is very impressive and HIPRA



claim it is the *lightest* needle free intradermal device on the market. Please discuss with your vet if you are interested in using the product.



## Meet the Team

### New Member of Staff:

### Toby Allcock, BVetMed MRCVS



Toby graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in London in summer 2020 and joined Garth immediately after. He is looking forward to getting involved in all areas of the practice but has a particular interest in infectious disease control. Outside of work, he enjoys playing the saxophone and the occasional pub quiz.

Originally from Cheshire, he is hoping to find some time to explore the beautiful surroundings of East Yorkshire and beyond, with a beach trip or two definitely on the cards!

### Richard Bond

Richard may well be a familiar face to some of you as he has been Garth's delivery driver for over 10 years, making sure you get your medicines safely. Richard has an impressive and varied CV, including a creative streak as he originally trained in pottery design, technical development and production, and worked at 2 major potteries as well as previously working for a national courier company.



Richard has 3 children and recently became a grandad for the first time. Richard's hobbies include DIY, watching rugby and snooker and he has kept tropical fish for over 30 years with his most recent additions including two very large Tiger Oscars, (think Piranha minus the teeth). Finally, Richard enjoys the occasional liquid refreshment!

## BIOPIGEE

We have a request from APHA to recruit farms for a study they are doing as part of the BIOPIGEE project which is looking at biosecurity practices which impact occurrences of Salmonella and HEV (Hepatitis Virus). The study involves an interview either by visit or remotely and one visit to collect faecal samples from the floor (i.e. no pig handling required). All types of farms are invited and results will be anonymised. Please contact us if you want further details.