

Miracle of Birth Center

Farrowing Protocol

1. First gilt is induced with 2.0 cc Estrumate subcutaneously in vulva on arrival on Wednesday set-up day. Other subsequent gilts are induced preferably to obtain one delivery per day except Labor Day. Induction is done at 8am to gilts that are hopefully at Day 113 of their gestation. We do not always get term dates (Day 115) in successive order so this decision is assessed when gilts arrive. This means we will have one extra farrowing on one of the days. 24 hours after induction.
2. Most gilts have been farrowing during the day as expected and no oxytocin is given unless there is a slow delivery or a problem with stillborns. This decision is made after consultation between the attending and co-chair veterinarian. Multiple vaginal exams are discouraged and should be discussed with a co-chair in the event of a prolonged delivery. In most cases we recommend waiting up to one hour between piglet births before doing another exam.
3. Any stillborn or "squeaker runs" should be removed to the office as soon as possible for euthanasia/disposal. All placentas and dead piglets should be deposited discreetly in the bucket next to the manure pit at the south end of the building.
4. Piglets are given 1cc Iron Dextran 200mg IM in the neck only with 20g 1" disposable plastic 3cc syringes after exhibit closes to any litters completely delivered by 9pm.
5. Only trained volunteers can hold piglets. Piglets to be held should be at least 24 hours old and **need to be returned to the correct mother!**
6. Protocol for diarrhea in piglets: Collect a rectal swab and submit it to the VDL for PCR testing-TGE and PED especially. If E. coli diarrhea is suspected, administer 10 mg Gentocin p.o. sid for 3 days or use oral Spectam/Spectoguard according to label directions.
7. Gilts that become hyper-excitable or cannibalistic during or after farrowing:
 - a. Remove pigs to a basket. Present them to sow periodically to determine acceptance.
 - b. Consider administering 5-10cc Acepromazine IM. ONLY DO THIS AFTER CONSULTING AND RECEIVING APPROVAL FROM CO-CHAIR VETERINARIAN. Remember that the piglets will also become sedated through the milk from this treatment.
 - c. Remove sow and litter to corner pen away from public if behavior persists.

TREATMENTS OTHER THAN THE ROUTINE LISTED ABOVE ARE ADMINISTERED AS NECESSARY AS DETERMINED BY THE CO-CHAIR VETERINARIANS.