

**Title:** Sampling of adult boars during early infection using a new serum collection technique for PRRS PCR testing prior to semen collection. – **NPB #04-111**

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**Abstract:** This study evaluated the feasibility of using a new approach for blood collection in boars called the blood swab method. The blood swab method involves puncturing a vein (normally in the ear) with a needle and swabbing the blood with a polyester swab. The swab is then put into saline solution and finally tested by PCR.

The Results of the study showed that 59/60 boars were detected positive using the blood swab method compared with 60/60 with traditional serum collection methods. Only 27 semen samples were positive. There was no statistical difference between likelihood of detecting a positive boar with blood swab method compared to serum. There was less quantity of virus detected by the blood swab method when compared with serum, which can be explained by the dilution effect of the saline and using whole blood rather than serum. The procedure can be implemented as part of the routine monitoring program to detect PRRSV infection in boar studs. The blood swab method is much more convenient than collecting serum by the traditional snaring method and will detect virus much sooner and with greater sensitivity than semen PCR. The blood swab method is being implemented in studs as a result of this study.

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