A SURVEY OF *TRICHINELLOSIS* IN PIGGERIES OF SOUTHERN BOTSWANA

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Abstract

Trichinellosis is a zoonosis that is widely distributed throughout the world. Several genera of these species affecting different domestic and wild animals have been identified. Trichinellosis has been reported in several Sub-Saharan countries. Despite its occurance even in Southern African countries, its presence in Botswana is yet to be confirmed. The objective of this study was to determine the prevalence of trichinellosis in piggeries in Botswana. The study was conducted at an abattoir in Gaborone. A 100 pigs carcasses were selected by random sampling for convenience. From each pig carcass, 5 g of crus of the diaphragm were collected using a sterile knife. Muscle samples were subsequently trimmed free from all fat and fascia before cutting into 1 to 2 gram samples. The muscles samples were pooled together into 100g muscle sample before they were processed by the OIE prescribed digestion method. A stereomicroscope at x10–16 magnification was used to systematically examine each grid of the Petri dish for the presence of Trichinella larvae. No Trichinela larvae was found in any digested muscle samples. Any future surveys should target a wider pig population and other host animals.