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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cutaneous Melanoma in Hampshire Swine

DEAR SIR:

There are references in recent literature (as well as some unpublished material) to the incidence of cutaneous melanoma in Duroc swine. The disease is characterized by raised, black areas on the skin which may break and drain. In some cases, it will become systemic and result in condemnation of the carcass at slaughter. The condition seems to have some genetic relationship and therefore is of economic importance to the conscientious breeder selling breeding stock.

We have observed and confirmed a case of cutaneous melanoma in a Hampshire boar. What appears to be cutaneous melanoma was also observed, but not confirmed, in a Hampshire sow. The black pigmented areas of the sow began to turn white soon after the suspect lesions appeared.

If other practitioners are observing this type of lesion in Hampshire animals, with or without a change of skin pigmentation, we would ask that they have the diagnosis confirmed histologically and contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

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Letters to the Editor to Contain Practice Information

DEAR SIR:

Since my graduation in 1966, I have been somewhat disappointed in the lack of written practical material for small animal practitioners. Last year I wrote a long and confidential letter to the editorial board making many suggestions as to how I felt the journal could be improved. To my pleasure they decided to act on some of the suggestions, and to my horror they asked me to serve as an assistant editor.

My main aim will be to work on the establishment of a "practitioners forum" so that people making minor discoveries in practice can share experiences in the journal. Many of the little tips which make practice so much easier were learned in the coffee shops and bars at professional meetings or were disseminated by the more helpful drug company representatives.

For the time being it has been decided to put this information in the "letters to the editor" section. While the material will be edited the format and references may vary more than the research papers do. It is hoped that many more practitioners will send information to the journal so we can find out what is really happening in applied veterinary medicine in Canada.

Yours truly,

GARY SMITH, D.V.M.

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