

Lice and Mites

By Kathy Petersen

I was asked the question today that I had not yet experienced in my herd..... How do you treat lice? Not having the answer off the top of my head made me research this topic and therefore, I thought I would share this with others that too may not know the answer.

A symptom of lice is when you see your pig excessively rubbing themselves to relieve the itching that lice can cause. You can sometimes see lice on a pig around its ears, head and flank areas as well. It would look like white lint or small white eggs on their hair.

This should be treated immediately as lice need blood to live, they are making a meal out of your beloved KuneKunes. It can result in anemia, skin irritation, itching and could result in pigs that mature slowly and are unable to utilize their feed effectively.

Use either ivermectins, diazinon, lindane or deltamethrin 1%. Deltamethrin (Coopers spot-on) has long lasting effects and is used as a pour on. Two doses given ten days apart will totally eradicate lice. All medicines are ineffective against the eggs hence the necessity to treat twice.