

## Inverted Uterus

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My lovely 9 year old Excelsa sow started to farrow late on a Sunday night right on her due date. I looked at her at 9pm and she was quiet but on the way so i hung around for an hour. When nothing was happening and she was not distressed i decided to leave her to carry on as we dont live on the premises i left knowing that she would just get on with it as she always had in the past.

I arrived back the following morning at 5.30am to find that she had done nothing so i soaped up and had a gentle feel iI could only just get my hand in and then it stopped there was a blockage but it was not a piglet. Knowing that this was a job for my vet I called and he was with me within 3/4 of an hour.

We had already had a conversation that went along the lines of " It sounds as though she has an inverted uterus, which in a pig of her age is not good so expect the worse. So when he arrived and gloved and suited up I was not feeling very hopefull, we pinned her up behind a gate ( Oh for a crush ) and he went to work, the first two piglets were born and alive i was so relieved it was to be short lived the following 10 were all dead I was gutted for all she had gone through she had only 2 live babies.

After we had finished Bob explained as sows get older like people everything gets slacker and the weight of the large litter had dragged her uterus down and it had become like an " S " bend inside effectivly stopping the rest of the litter being born. He is just the best nothing is too much trouble. You learn so much from him.

He says she has a large tear inside which will heal in time so has filled her with antibiotics and pain relief which I have to repeat over the next few days I am also giving oxytocin to help her produce milk. She is feeding the piglets but there is not a huge amount of milk so at the moment I am helping supplement her milk and just praying for all of them to survive. I have no other of her line as I kept thinking i would take out of the next litter. I have had this line for 12 years brought in from Dave and Maureen Shaw just before Foot and Mouth in 2001 i could not bear it if I lost it. The next weeks will be a terrible worry and I will let you know in the next news what happens.

*Sharon*

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