

Kenya

Food, Health & Sustainability

Kenya is full of startling contradictions. The country stretches across the equator, yet Kenya's mountains are topped with snow. Its coast is lined with luxury resorts, yet the country is entrenched in poverty. And, on a local level, although many farmers' lives rely on pig farming, pigs often carry deadly diseases.

Taenia solium, a pork tapeworm, is an all-too-common problem in Kenya. This tapeworm is transmitted between pigs and humans in a dangerous and continuous cycle. It can cause epilepsy as well as other debilitating conditions, and it can even lead to death. Infection, however, can be prevented with proper education about pig rearing.

In 2007, VWB/VSF collaborated with Dr. Cate Dewey on a project to help reduce the prevalence of *Taenia solium* and improve swine health and productivity in Western Kenya. Recently, a VWB/VSF team travelled to the districts of Busia and Kakamega to present a series of workshops on pig management to local veterinarians, farmers, nurses, pig butchers, social workers, elementary schools and adult education specialists. In addition to improving pig health and reducing the spread of parasites like *Taenia solium*, these workshops are also showing farmers how to weigh and measure their pigs so that they can price their livestock more accurately.



Over the next few years, VWB/VSF will collaborate with these communities to provide ongoing support and to ensure continued success. During this time, VWB/VSF will encourage several long-term goals like improving pig welfare standards, increasing pig feed and water, reducing disease transmission, and promoting pig management education.

About VWB/VSF

Founded in Guelph, Ontario four years ago, Veterinarians without Borders / Vétérinaires sans Frontières - Canada's (VWB/VSF) mission is to work for, and with, those in need to foster the health of animals, people, and the environments that sustain us. We are committed to engaging people where they live and working with them to build on their existing strengths to adapt and prosper in the rapidly changing world. From developing a canine population control program in Guatemala, to improving goat production for women and children in HIV/AIDS – affected households in Uganda, to assisting in the development of veterinary curricula in Senegal, VWB/VSF is continually working to help communities develop locally-defined strategies to promote and maintain public and animal health.



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