Indications:

The following may be considered as causal or contributory when adopting control measures.

**Disease**

* Diarrhoea - excessive straining.
* Respiratory disease - excessive coughing increasing abdominal pressure.
* Colitis - abnormal fermentation occurs in the large bowel with the production of excessive gas increasing abdominal pressure.

**The Environment**

* In cold weather the incidence of rectal prolapses increases. This is associated with low house temperatures and the tendency of pigs to huddle together, thus increasing abdominal pressure.
* Wet conditions and slippery floors, particularly those with no bedding, increase abdominal pressure.
* If stocking densities reach the level whereby pigs cannot lay out on their sides across the pen the incidence may increase.

**Nutrition**

* Ad lib feeding - Feeding pigs to appetite results in continual heavy gut fill and indigestion. There is then a tendency for abnormal fermentation in the large bowel because undigested components of the feed arrive in greater amounts.
* High density diets and in particular lysine levels increase growth rates and outbreaks may often subside either by a change to restricted feeding or using a lower energy / lysine diet.
* Water shortage - This can lead to constipation.
* Diets high in starch may predispose to prolapse - Try adding 2-4% grass meal to the diet.
* The presence of mycotoxins in feed - If there is a problem make sure that the bins have been well cleaned out. Examine the cereal sources.
* Change of diet - By studying the timing of the problem it is sometimes possible to identify rectal prolapses not only with a change of diet but also a change of housing.
* Field evidence does not identify breed as a causal factor.
* Increases in rectal prolapses have been reported in association with the use of tylosin but the evidence for this is unclear.
* Trauma
* Tail docking - docking tails too short can damage the nerve supply to the anal ring leading to a relaxation of the anal sphincter.