

# "Remote Digital Autopsy"

## A simplified field necropsy method

**AIM**  
Evaluate if  
Remote Digital Autopsy  
can be used to **determine  
the cause of death**  
in Swedish cattle

**CONCLUSION**  
Remote Digital Autopsy has  
**potential as a diagnostic and  
surveillance tool** for cattle under  
Swedish production conditions

### "REMOTE DIGITAL AUTOPSY"

Remote Digital Autopsy is a method developed by Feedlot Health Management Services (FHMS) in Canada to provide a rapid diagnostics of cause of death for cattle managed on feedlots.



Photo: T. Manske



Trained technicians perform an autopsy in a predetermined way. Digital photographs of "key organs" are taken and uploaded to a database.

A presumptive and at times syndromic-level diagnosis is made by veterinarians based on the digital images and available clinical history.

### METHODS

- Sixteen Swedish veterinarians were trained by FHMS in October 2017
- The trained veterinarians were encouraged to perform Remote Digital Autopsy in the field
- Participating veterinarians were interviewed face-to-face or by phone to gather their views

### RESULTS

- + Great interest among Swedish large animal veterinarians
- + Reduced time from death to necropsy
- + Complement to standard necropsy
- + Gain additional information on animals otherwise sent to destruction
- Increased work load for the veterinarian
- Problems with carcass collection
- Hygiene and biosecurity aspects
- Additional cost

