The diet aside from seaweed supplement was as follows: 46% oats, 37% corn, 5.5% soybean meal, 5.4% molasses, 4% fat, 1.1% dicalcium phosphate, 0.7% calcium carbonate and 0.3% vitamin/mineral premix.

The seaweed extract powder was admixed with diet to provide diet for the mares fed seaweed supplemented diet by hand mixing into the diet at the time of feeding. Each mare was individually fed.

Blood samples were collected at the start of the study, at weaning, and three times more to determine the effect of weaning and handling on the neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio aspect of the immune system.

The results are shown in FIG. **16**.

Normally, horses have about 54% neutrophils and 35% lymphocytes which is a ratio of neutrophils to lymphocytes of about 1.5:1. As indicated in FIG. **16**, control mares (not fed seaweed supplement) had elevated neutropbil to lymphocyte ratio increasing to near 4.0 on day 28. As shown in FIG. **16**, for mares fed diet with seaweed supplement, the neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio was consistent at around 1.5.

These findings indicate that feeding seaweed supplement to lactating mares prior to weaning mitigated the stress of weaning and handling, especially on day 28.

Similar results of mitigating the stress of weaning and handling are obtained, when the lactating mares are grazed on seaweed extract treated pasture or seaweed meal treated pasture instead of being directly feed seaweed extract and diet as described above.

For purposes of this specification and figures, the following abbreviations are defined as follows:

S.E.	standard error;
E+	endophyte infected;
E–	no endophyte infection;
T+	with seaweed; and
T–	without seaweed.

The terms and expressions which have been employed are used as terms of description and not of limitation, and it is not intended in the use of such terms and expressions to exclude an equivalence of the features shown and described or portions thereof since it is recognized that various modifications are possible within the scope of the invention claimed.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of imparting resistance to porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome disease, denoted PRRS disease in pigs that have been exposed to PRRS disease, comprising administering a PRRS disease resistance imparting effective amount ranging from 0.1 to 5% by weight of diet of seaweed supplement from *Ascophyllum nodosum* to pigs that have been exposed PRRS disease.

2. The method of claim **1** wherein the amount administered ranges from 0.2 to 5% by weight of diet.

3. The method of claim **1** wherein the pigs are baby pigs entering or in the nursery phase.

4. The method of claim **1** wherein the administering comprises feeding the pigs seaweed supplement during the entire nursery phase.

5. The method of claim **1** where the administering is carried out by directly feeding seaweed supplement in admixture with diet.

6. The method of claim **1** wherein the seaweed supplement is seaweed extract.

7. The method of claim **1** wherein the seaweed supplement is seaweed meal.

8. A method of imparting resistance to porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome disease, denoted PRRS disease, in pigs that have been exposed to PRRS disease, comprising administering a PRRS disease resistance imparting effective amount ranging from 0.5 to 5% by weight of diet of seaweed supplement from *Ascophyllum nodosum* to pigs that have been exposed to PRRS disease.

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