

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IS SPREADING - BE AWARE!

African Swine Fever (ASF) is a serious viral haemorrhagic disease affecting domestic pigs, wild boars, and mini pigs. There is no vaccine or treatment for the disease. African swine fever does not affect humans. African swine fever is endemic in Africa. In 2007 the disease spread to Georgia, probably from food waste imported from Africa. After that, ASF spread to, among others, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Serbia, Moldova, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Albania and to EU countries Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Italy, Germany, Czech Republic, Croatia, Greece and Sweden. African swine fever is widely found in East and Southeast Asia, as well as Africa. In China, the disease situation is very threatening. African swine fever has never been detected in Finland.

Transmission

Directly

- Via contact between sick and healthy animals, even before the onset of symptoms.
- From dead pigs or wild boars.

Indirectly

- Via meat or meat products from an infected pig or wild boar, by-products, and untreated hunting trophies.

Due to African swine fever, import restrictions must be considered when travelling from countries affected by the disease.

- From feed or food waste containing meat from an infected pig or wild boar.
- **In the EU, it is illegal to feed production animals with food waste.**
- Through equipment, clothes, feed, litter, transport equipment and foodstuffs, contaminated with virus.

Sources of the virus include blood, tissues, secretions and excretions of sick and dead animals

The contagiousness of the virus is influenced by temperature, pH, humidity, and UV -radiation, among other things.



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The virus survives:

- In blood and organs (+4 °C) for 18 months
- In faeces and urine (+20 °C) approximately 2 weeks, +4 °C for several months
- In a carcass and in by-products for several months
- In pork or wild boar meat products without heat treatment for many months, up to a year
- In frozen pork or wild boar meat for several years

There is a reason to suspect ASF, if

- Pigs with the symptoms of African swine fever
- Pigs die suddenly or become rapidly ill
- Pigs with feverish intestinal or respiratory disease, unaffected by antibiotics
- A dead wild boar is found in the area
- A hunted wild boar with symptoms of African swine fever
- Unusual findings upon evisceration of the wild boar

Symptoms

- Sudden death without previous symptoms
- **High fever (40.5–42 °C), lethargy**
- Reddening of the skin, skin haemorrhages
- Lack of appetite, vomiting, (bloody) diarrhoea, constipation
- Limping, stiffness in hind legs, shaking or spasms
- Ocular and nasal discharges
- Abortion
- Mortality rate often approaches 100% among infected pigs, coma and death occurs in 1–7 days
- **The number of infected pigs may vary and symptoms may also be less severe**

The most common incubation period is 3–15 days.

Findings upon necropsy

- Generalised hyperaemia in both the organs and carcass
- Bloody fluid in both the thoracic and abdominal cavities
- Spleen and lymph nodes are dark, enlarged, and fragile
- Bloody haemorrhages in the organs and gastrointestinal mucous membranes

Actions upon suspicion

- **Without delay, contact the municipal veterinarian.**
- Follow the municipal veterinarian's instructions regarding cleaning and disinfection.
- Clean of visible dirt and wash any equipment and accessories you have used.
- Wash the clothes you have used according to manufacturer's guidelines at the highest temperature.
- Disinfect them by placing in a warm sauna or a hot cupboard (minimum 60 minutes +60 °C, take fire safety into account) or with a disinfectant solution (for instance, Virkon S 1% solution or 0,5 % hypochlorite for minimum 30 minutes). Follow the instructions provided by the manufacturer. Disinfectants can be purchased from pharmacies or agricultural supply stores.
- Wash yourself and take a sauna.
- Wash and clean your car including the chassis.
- Do not visit pig farms or take part in the feeding or hunting of wild boars for 48 hours.

More about
African swine fever:
www.ruokavirasto.fi/asf



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