

# African swine fever (ASF) is spreading in Europe – be aware!



African swine fever (ASF) is a transmittable viral haemorrhagic disease affecting domestic pigs, wild boars, and mini and micro 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 and Belarus, and in 2014 it spread to the EU member states Lithuania, Poland, Latvia and Estonia. In the European region, African swine fever has been present in Sardinia since 1978. African swine fever has never been detected in Finland.

## **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.

## **THERE IS 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 necropsy of the wild boar

## 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

## 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. 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

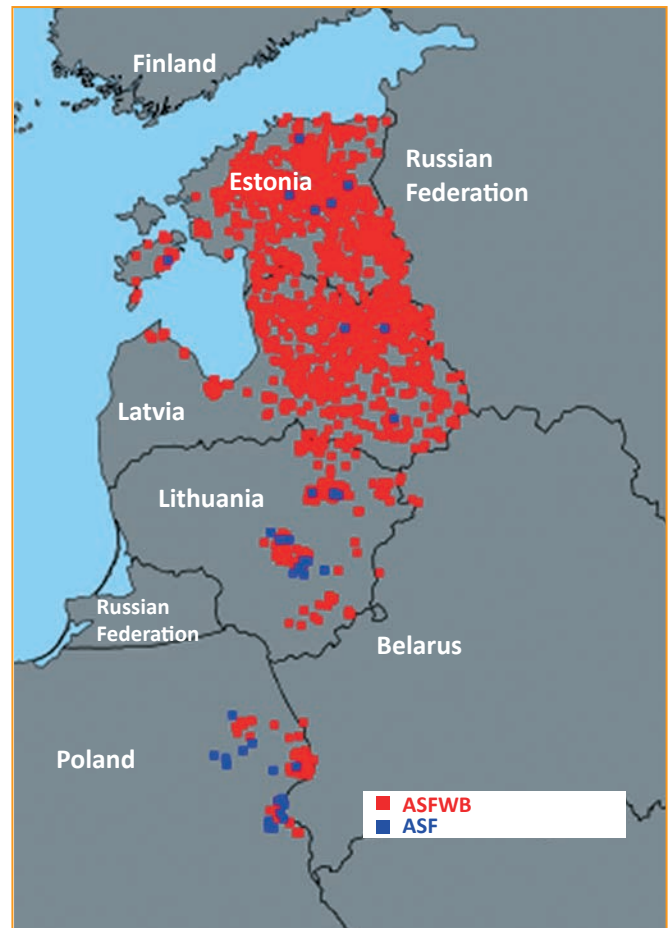
## TRANSMISSION

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 to countries affected by the virus.*
- ▶ 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.



A map summarising the disease situation in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia 2016.

## ACTIONS UPON SUSPICION

- ▶ **Without delay, contact the municipal veterinarian.**
- ▶ Follow the municipal veterinarian's instructions regarding cleaning and disinfection.
- ▶ Wash and clean your car.
- ▶ Soak the clothes you have used in disinfectant solution and wash them according to manufacturer's guidelines at the highest temperature.
- ▶ Clean of visible dirt and wash any equipment and accessories you have used.
- ▶ Disinfect by placing in a warm sauna (minimum 30 minutes +60°C) or with a disinfectant solution (for instance, Virkon S 1% solution or 2% hypochlorite). Follow the instructions provided by the manufacturer. Disinfectants can be purchased from pharmacies or agricultural supply stores.
- ▶ Wash yourself and take a sauna.
- ▶ Do not visit pig farms or take part in the feeding or hunting of wild boars for 48 hours.