



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

What hunters need to know about African swine fever and biosecurity measures during hunting

What is African swine fever?

- African swine fever (ASF) is a viral, lethal, infectious disease of pigs that kills both domestic pigs and wild boar.
- Animals of all ages and sexes can be affected.
- The disease is not transmissible to humans.
- The clinical signs in infected live wild boar are rarely seen because infected animals hide and only their carcasses are found.

Why is African swine fever an important disease for wild boar?

- The disease causes large economic losses to the hunting sector and to pig production.
- Over 90 percent of infected animals die.
- Because of the disease, wild boar populations can significantly decline or almost disappear.
- There is no effective vaccine or treatment for ASF.
- The virus is very resistant and survives in wild boar carcasses for a long time.

What are the most important sources and routes of African swine fever transmission in wild boar?

- The ASF virus can survive in the meat and offal of infected wild boar and pigs for a long time. Also in their carcasses. All fluids of an infected animal contain the virus, particularly the blood.
- The disease is transmitted mostly through direct contact of healthy animals with infected or dead pigs and/or wild boar.
- If wild boar eat food leftovers that contain pork or other products from infected animals, they can contract ASF.
- The disease can also spread through objects, clothing, footwear, equipment, and vehicles contaminated with blood, faeces, or other secretions from infected animals.

What role do hunters have in finding African swine fever?

- As a hunter, you should report wild boar carcasses you find to the national competent authority, including the geocoordinates and a detailed description of the location. If possible, take a photograph of the animal and the location.
- Report any wild boar that exhibit strange behaviour.

What role do hunters have in preventing the spread of African swine fever?

Biosecurity during hunting includes all measures and procedures that reduce the risk of the introduction and spread of ASF. Measures will vary based on the level of risk, the absence/presence of the disease, and the policy of the country. All hunters should be trained in hunting biosecurity practices:

- Avoid the improper and uncontrolled disposal of food or leftovers, like sandwiches, in the hunting ground, particularly if they contain meat or meat products.
- Share your knowledge of the disease and the measures to prevent its spread with fellow hunters and others to increase local awareness of ASF.
- Transport hunted wild boar safely (in leak-proof containers) to the designated dressing area to prevent the contamination of the environment with infected blood leaking from the carcasses.
- Dress hunted wild boar at the designated dressing area to prevent the contamination of the environment with blood and other infected fluids.
- If evisceration takes place in the field, collect and dispose of the offal properly. Never leave it in the field, accessible to wild boar.
- Store hunted wild boar safely on-site (in refrigerators) until they are tested for ASF.
- Clean and disinfect your equipment, vehicles, facilities, and hunting trophies on-site before you leave.
- Properly dispose of home garbage containing homemade products from your hunt. Never feed it to pigs.
- Do not visit pig farms unless strictly necessary.
- Dispose of infected wild boar carcasses by burning or burying them. If requested by the competent authority, collect and transport them to a rendering plant to destroy the virus following recommended procedures.

To learn more about ASF in wild boar and hunting biosecurity, download information using the QR code:

