



Measures to prevent the introduction of African swine fever (ASF)

African swine fever (ASF) is on the rise. Cases of ASF in domestic and wild pigs have occurred regularly in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine for several years now. Other European countries, namely the Czech Republic and Romania, have been affected recently.

This viral disease is almost always fatal to infected domestic or wild pigs. There is no vaccination. Human beings are not at risk. However, they do play a major role in spreading the disease. Once ASF has been introduced into a country, government measures are needed to combat it. These have a significant impact on the economy. Infected herds must be culled completely. The introduction of ASF into the wild pig population makes disease control very difficult.

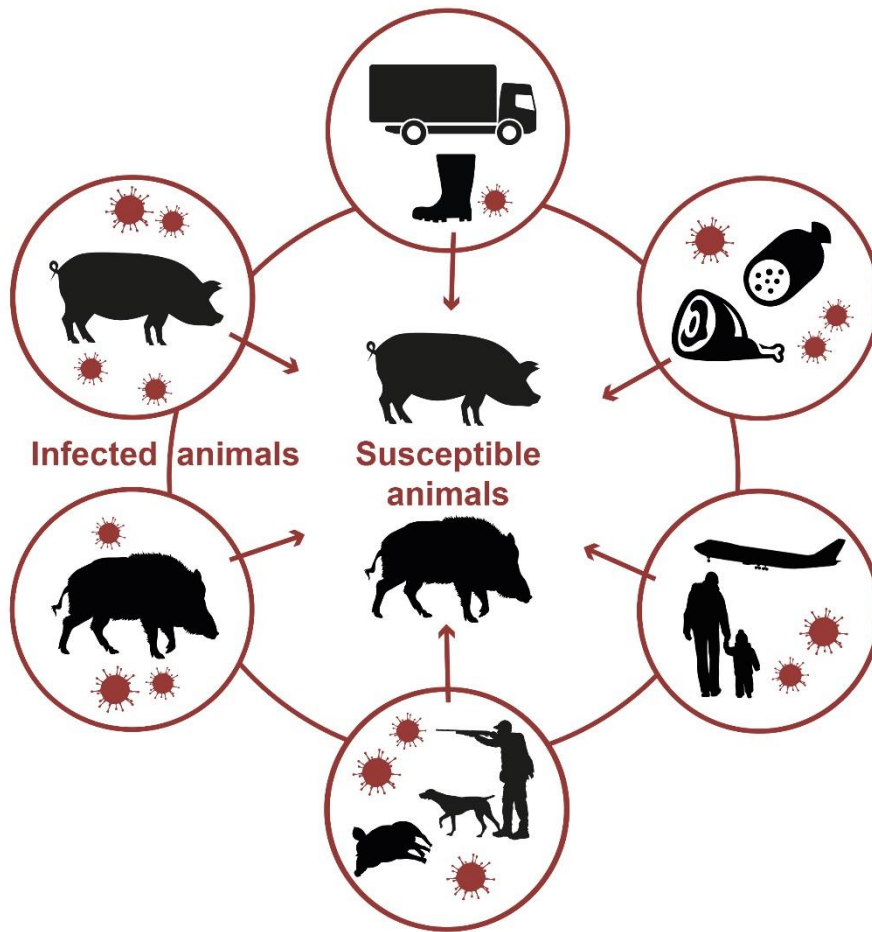
The spread of ASF is alarming for Switzerland as well.

The most important measure to prevent the introduction of this disease is to be careful.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- ASF is a highly contagious viral disease which is confined to domestic and wild pigs.
- It is spread primarily by contact with infected animals. Blood or objects contaminated with blood are especially important for transmission.
- The ASF virus is very resilient. It remains contagious for long periods in animal carcasses, in the environment, and in meat or sausages from infected animals.
- The virus can be transmitted from one farm to another by visitors and by contaminated clothing, footwear, vehicles, equipment or instruments.
- The virus can be carried over long distances!

Main transmission routes



WHAT YOU NEED TO REMEMBER:

Travellers to or from ASF-affected areas, especially livestock farmers, seasonal farm workers and long-distance drivers, must observe the following instructions:

- Do not bring in food (meat or sausages) from affected areas.
- The feeding of kitchen waste to domestic and wild pigs is prohibited.
- Dispose of general food waste in closed containers.
- Follow strict hygiene measures when hunting in ASF countries (cleaning of hunting clothes and equipment). Do not bring in hunting trophies.

