



BIOSECURITY ADVICE FOR HUNTERS TRAVELLING TO COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

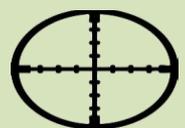
African swine fever (ASF) is a devastating viral disease of pigs and wild boar that is slowly spreading across Europe. The disease causes severe illness and death in almost all pigs and wild boar that are infected. There is no treatment or vaccine available for ASF. The wild boar population has been particularly affected by the disease which is currently present in nine EU Member States including Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, and most recently Belgium. Other parts of the world affected by ASF include Russia, Ukraine and the Caucasus, and parts of Africa and Asia including China.

ASF does not affect humans and meat does not pose a human health risk. However, the ASF virus can survive in uncooked, salted or cured pork and pork products for several months and if fed to pigs can cause a disease outbreak.

Ireland is free of African swine fever and if an outbreak in pigs were to occur here it would have a severe impact on the Irish pig farming sector. Hunters who travel to ASF affected countries should take measures to ensure that they do not bring ASF into Ireland.

Measures that should be taken include the following:

- **Do not bring back** untreated hunting trophies or souvenirs of wild boar or feral pigs into Ireland.
- **Do not bring pork or pork products onto Irish farms** where they may accidentally be eaten by pigs e.g. ham sandwiches, salami, cured meat etc.
- Clean and disinfect equipment, clothing and shoes used during hunting in ASF affected regions:
 1. Remove all traces of dirt and visible contamination prior to washing and disinfecting
 2. Clothing should be washed at a high temperature (+60°C for a minimum of 30 minutes)
 3. All footwear and equipment should be cleaned and treated with a disinfectant in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions e.g. Virkon S, 2% Sodium hypochlorite
- If hunting with dogs:
 1. Wash the dog to ensure that the coat is clean
 2. Wash and disinfect equipment using an approved disinfectant according to the manufacturer's instructions e.g. collars, leads, jackets, dog trailer etc.
- Upon your return to Ireland avoid contact with pigs and pig farms for 72 hours upon where applicable.



Hunters who take the above precautions can play an important role in preventing the entry of African swine fever into Ireland. Further ASF disease and biosecurity information for hunters is available in the Disease Control Section of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine website at [DAFM - African Swine Fever](#).