|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Logo AGES | |
| African Swine Fever | |
|  |  |
| 30.04.2025 08:24 Uhr | |

**African
Swine
Fever**

**ASF**

Last
change:
13.05.2024

**Occurrence**

African
swine
fever
originated
in
Africa,
where
the
virus
also
has
the
highest
genetic
diversity.
Starting
from
there,
it
has
spread
to
Europe
and
Asia
several
times
in
the
course
of
food
transport.
African
swine
fever
is
currently
found
in
many
European
countries,
some
of
which
are
Austria's
direct
neighbours,
in
wild
boar
and
sometimes
also
in
domestic
pigs.
Austria
has
so
far
been
spared
from
ASF.

**Host
animals**

In
Africa,
different
species
of
porcine
animals
(bush,
forest
and
warthogs)
and
ticks
of
the
genus
Ornithodoros
are
the
main
reservoir
of
the
pathogen.
In
Europe,
this
role
is
taken
over
by
the
wild
boar.

**Infection
route**

Transmission
occurs
either
via
the
bite
of
infected
ticks
(at
present,
this
transmission
route
is
not
significant
in
Europe),
through
direct
contact
of
susceptible
pigs
with
infected
conspecifics
or
their
virus-containing
body
fluids,
or
through
ingestion
of
virus-containing
food
waste.
Since
the
virus
is
very
resistant,
it
remains
infectious
to
some
extent
even
after
drying
or
processing/maturing
in
raw
meat
products
such
as
raw
ham
or
salami.

**Incubation
time**

4
to
19
days

**Symptoms**

The
symptoms
are
strongly
dependent
on
the
virus
strain.
The
strain
currently
present
in
Europe
of
the
so-called
genotype
2
usually
leads
to
highly
febrile,
severe
general
diseases
in
domestic
and
wild
pigs
of
all
ages,
in
which
bleeding
into
the
skin
and
internal
organs
can
occur.
Affected
animals
usually
die
from
the
disease
before
they
develop
antibodies.
However,
there
are
also
virus
strains
that
lead
to
milder
courses
of
the
disease.

**Therapy**

There
is
no
therapy

**Prevention**

Although
vaccination
against
ASF
is
being
worked
on,
it
is
not
yet
available
in
Europe.
Prevention
is
therefore
limited
to
early
detection,
separation
and
culling
of
infected
animals.

**Situation
in
Austria**

Austria
has
so
far
been
spared
African
swine
fever,
although
it
does
occur
in
some
neighbouring
countries
such
as
Germany,
Italy,
Slovakia,
the
Czech
Republic
and
Hungary,
but
also
in
Poland,
the
Baltic
states
(Estonia,
Latvia,
Lithuania)
and
many
eastern
and
south-eastern
European
countries
(Romania,
Bulgaria,
Serbia,
North
Macedonia,
Greece,
Moldova,
Ukraine,
Russia).
The
main
risk
for
Austria
remains
the
entry
from
the
eastern
outbreak
areas
in
Europe.

The
[Austrian
animal
disease
radar](https://www.ages.at/wissen-aktuell/publikationen/?tx_solr%5Bfilter%5D%5B0%5D=category%3ATierseuchenradar)
evaluates
and
compiles
information
on
the
international
situation
and
spread
of
the
most
important
animal
diseases
that
are
relevant
for
Austria.
This
enables
potential
risks
for
Austria
to
be
recognised
and
communicated
at
an
early
stage.
The
animal
disease
radar
is
published
monthly.

Since
the
end
of
2019,
all
wild
boar
found
dead
in
Austria
must
be
reported
and
tested
for
the
ASF
virus
by
AGES
for
the
purpose
of
early
detection.
In
addition,
abortions
and
clinically
or
pathologically
conspicuous
domestic
pigs
are
also
tested.

**Domestic
and
wild
boar
monitoring**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Domestic Pigs** | **Wild boar** |
| **2011** | 0 | 521 |
| **2012** | 5 | 45 |
| **2013** | 5 | 34 |
| **2014** | 10 | 98 |
| **2015** | 13 | 74 |
| **2016** | 9 | 45 |
| **2017** | 1.552 | 68 |
| **2018** | 2.264 | 162 |
| **2019** | 2.106 | 177 |
| **2020** | 1.498 | 344 |
| **2021** | 1.504 | 1.813 |
| **2022** | 1.454 | 1.809 |
| **2023** | 1.457 | 1.379 |

**ASP
exclusion
studies
domestic
pig**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **ASF-Antibody** | **ASFV PCR** |
| **2011** | 0 | 0 |
| **2012** | 0 | 5 |
| **2013** | 0 | 5 |
| **2014** | 0 | 10 |
| **2015** | 0 | 13 |
| **2016** | 0 | 9 |
| **2017** | 0 | 1.552 |
| **2018** | 10 | 2.304 |
| **2019** | 36 | 2.096 |
| **2020** | 0 | 1.498 |
| **2021** | 3 | 1.517 |
| **2022** | 8 | 1.448 |
| **2023** | 9 | 1.448 |

**ASP
investigations
Wild
boar**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **ASP-Antibody** | **ASPV PCR** |
| **2011** | 223 | 298 |
| **2012** | 43 | 2 |
| **2013** | 32 | 2 |
| **2014** | 0 | 98 |
| **2015** | 0 | 74 |
| **2016** | 0 | 45 |
| **2017** | 0 | 68 |
| **2018** | 0 | 152 |
| **2019** | 0 | 177 |
| **2020** | 0 | 344 |
| **2021** | 0 | 1.813 |
| **2022** | 0 | 1.809 |
| **2023** | 0 | 1.379 |

**Specialized
information**

African
swine
fever
virus
(ASFV)
is
a
DNA
virus
that
is
the
only
virus
belonging
to
the
family
Asfarviridae,
genus
Asfivirus.
ASFV
has
a
double-stranded
DNA
genome
with
a
very
complex
structure,
approximately
170,000
to
192,000
base
pairs
in
size.
There
is
only
one
serotype,
but
based
on
the
viral
p72
gene,
24
different
genotypes
are
currently
distinguished.
The
virus
shows
a
tropism
to
macrophages
and
is
therefore
present
in
high
amounts
in
the
blood
and
all
blood-containing
organs
(particularly
high
viral
loads
are
found
in
the
spleen).
ASF
is
a
notifiable
disease.

**Transmission**

The
transmission
route
via
ticks
of
the
genus
Ornithodoros,
which
was
important
in
Africa
and
historically
also
in
Europe,
does
not
play
a
role
in
Europe
according
to
current
knowledge.
Domestic
and
wild
pigs
become
infected
through
contact
with
infected
conspecifics,
ingestion
of
food
waste
containing
the
virus,
and
possibly
through
contaminated
objects
such
as
farm
equipment,
vehicles,
and
clothing.
Based
on
current
knowledge,
feral
pigs
that
die
of
ASF
or
their
carcasses
are
an
important
source
of
infection
for
conspecifics.
Early
removal
of
these
carcasses
is
therefore
of
great
importance
in
the
infected
area.

**Symptoms**

The
incubation
period
is
4-19
days
The
most
important
symptoms
are
fever
(40.5
°C
to
42
°C)
and
apathy.
After
the
pathogen
enters
the
host,
viremia
with
fever
occurs
first.
Many
African
wild
pigs
(e.g.,
warthogs)
are
inapparently
infected
with
the
virus.
Pigs
may
also
carry
the
pathogen
without
clinical
signs
(asymptomatic
carriers).
Pigs
with
symptoms
show
typical
clinical
signs,
which
depend
on
the
virus
strain.
In
Europe,
ASF
virus
genotype
II
is
common
and
usually
leads
to
an
acute
course
of
the
disease.

There
are
several
forms
of
progression
-
depending
on
the
virulence
of
the
pathogen:

Peracute
-
acute
form
(usually
caused
by
highly
virulent
ASF
virus,
e.g.,
ASF
virus
genotype
II).

* Fever
  (40.5
  °C
  to
  42
  °C)
* Leukopenia
  and
  thrombocytopenia
  (48
  to
  72
  hours)
* Erythema
  =
  redness
  of
  the
  skin:
  ears,
  tail,
  distal
  extremities,
  abdomen,
  and
  chest
* bleeding
  in
  internal
  organs
  (spleen,
  lymph
  nodes,
  stomach,
  kidneys,
  lungs)
* increased
  pulse
  rate
* increased
  respiratory
  rate
* vomiting
* diarrhea
  (usually
  also
  bloody)
* Death
  occurs
  within
  6-13
  days
  (up
  to
  20
  days).
  The
  mortality
  rate
  is
  90-100%
  in
  domestic
  and
  wild
  pigs.

Subacute
form
(usually
due
to
moderate-virulent
ASF
virus).

* Symptoms
  are
  not
  as
  severe
  as
  in
  the
  acute
  form;
  abortions
  occur
  more
  frequently.
  The
  course
  of
  the
  disease
  lasts
  5-30
  days.
  Death
  occurs
  within
  15-45
  days.
  Mortality
  rate
  is
  lower
  than
  in
  the
  acute
  form
  (30-70%).

Chronic
form
(usually
caused
by
low-virulence
ASF
virus).

* Symptoms
  are
  not
  as
  pronounced
  as
  in
  the
  acute
  form
* weight
  loss
* irregular
  temperature
  fluctuations
* breathing
  problems
* arthritis
* chronic
  skin
  ulcers
  partly
  skin
  necrosis
* Pericarditis
* adhesion
  of
  the
  lung
* joint
  swelling
* course
  of
  the
  disease
  lasts
  about
  2-15
  months
* low
  mortality
  rate
  (<
  20
  %)

**Contact**

**National
reference
laboratory
for
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