



## FACE recommendations for hunting associations and hunters in preparing for and dealing with African swine fever (ASF) in the field

### Hunting associations: Before an outbreak

#### Knowledge base:

- Be familiar with (at least) the following documents: [Strategic approach to the management of African Swine Fever for the EU](#), [OIE's handbook](#), GF-TADS recommendations on ASF and [CIC/FACE/OIE Recommendations](#).
- Delegate a national expert to take part in the FACE ASF Task Force that facilitates international and transboundary cooperation by sharing national updates and best practice.

#### Communication:

- Develop and implement awareness-raising campaigns for all stakeholders, including non-hunters.
- Focus your communication on certain key messages:
  - ASF is not dangerous for humans.
  - When there is no outbreak, the meat of wild boar is perfectly safe for human consumption.
  - Hunters have an important role to play in monitoring, preventing and eradicating ASF.
- Start or maintain a regular dialogue between all stakeholders, especially to increase preparedness on ASF.
  - With regards to a dialogue with authorities, communication should be open and two-sided.
- Use simple and clear language, especially when communicating the role of hunting in eradicating ASF towards the general public.
- Develop a best practice example of a fully prepared hunting ground that you can share.

#### Wild boar populations:

- Develop or maintain a science-based and tailor-made long-term strategy to manage wild boar populations.
  - Following international recommendations, this strategy should promote a reduction of wild boar populations, using effective management strategies.
- High animal welfare standards should remain in place.
- In view of population density reductions, ensure that hunters can use all relevant instruments and/or hunting techniques (e.g. night vision and suppressors),
- Ban supplementary feeding for wild boar, but still allowing baiting.

#### Biosecurity:

- Develop and implement a biosecurity strategy for hunters, based on the [OIE handbook](#).

- Develop biosecurity training programmes/sessions.
- Make sure hunters follow best practice bio-security measures and have the required equipment.
- Develop, together with relevant authorities, a logistical work plan on common actions when an outbreak occurs.
  - If possible, simulate such a plan, to make sure it works in practice.

#### Monitoring:

- Provide guidance towards hunters and others on monitoring ASF, with the aim of providing an early warning system:
  - How to recognise sick animals (clinical signs).
  - What to do when a sick or dead animal is observed.
  - Why it is important to monitor the disease.

### **Hunting associations: After an outbreak**

#### Knowledge base:

- Keep your knowledge on ASF up-to-date; share relevant experiences and lessons learned with others, especially the FACE African Swine Fever Task Force.

#### Communication:

- Inform the general public, focussing on the key messages.
- Work together in a constructive way with all stakeholders.
- Maintain an open and two-way dialogue with all key stakeholders, especially authorities:
  - Transparency and trust are key, especially to motivate hunters in taking concrete actions.
- Prepare hunters and others of the long-term effects of ASF:
  - Endemic diseases threaten wild boar populations for a long time.
  - It is crucial to remain vigilant in monitoring, biosecurity measures and carcass removal.
- Follow any national/international obligations on discarding meat from harvested animals in certain areas, even that such meat is fit for human consumption. Wild boar meat from other areas is fit for consumption.

#### Wild boar populations:

- Support the implementation of the [Strategic approach to the management of African Swine Fever for the EU, the following recommendations are for the non-infected areas:](#)
  - [No sustained feeding, only baiting.](#)
  - [Hunting should prioritise adult and sub-adult females, while balancing males and females.](#)
  - [The minimum biosecurity requirements for hunters are applied.](#)
- It is paramount that hunters understand the need for these measures and support them.

#### Biosecurity:

- As part of your communication, focus on giving guidance on how to implement biosecurity and carcass removal measures in a practical manner.
- Organise training sessions and information sessions for hunters on these topics.

## Hunters: Before an outbreak

### Knowledge base:

- Consult information provided by your national hunting association and/or authorities:
  - Clinical signs and other ways to monitor for ASF in wild boar.
  - On population management for ASF prevention.
  - On biosecurity measures, see also the [OIE handbook, chapter 4 and 5](#).

### Communications:

- Ensure that other stakeholders in your hunting area are informed about the disease and engage with them on relevant actions:
  - Forestry: ASF can prevent hunting in areas where ungulates require management.
  - Farmers: the need for biosecurity measures.
  - Tourism: inform tourists on risks of ASF spreading.

### Wild boar populations:

- Organise monitoring efforts, together with other stakeholders and/or authorities.
  - Contact relevant authorities when there is a suspicion of ASF infected animals.
- Implement strategies in line with national and international recommendations to reduce wild boar populations.

### Biosecurity:

- Take the necessary biosecurity precautions when you are in contact with wild boar:
  - Do not visit a domestic pig farm within 48 hours.
  - Dressing area and all instruments used to dress animals are regularly cleaned.
- When traveling to or from infected areas, take the necessary biosecurity measures.
  - Do not bring wild boar products (e.g. meat, trophies) with you.
- Adapt your hunting operation/area for an outbreak:
  - Prepare to implement guidance/rules from your national hunting association/authority.
  - Make sure you have the necessary tools to implement biosecurity measures.

## Hunters: After an outbreak

### Knowledge:

- Keep your knowledge on ASF up-to-date, share relevant experiences and lessons learned with others, especially with your national hunting association/authorities.

### Communication:

- Continue informing stakeholders of the dangers of ASF and how to prevent ASF from spreading.
- Inform others about the measures that you are implementing and seek partnerships to strengthen the impact of those measures.

#### Wild boar population:

- Implement measures to reduce wild boar populations in non-infected areas and support other measures, where possible, in infected areas:
  - Ascertain which measures have to be implemented from the authorities.
- Ongoing monitoring is important and carcass removal is essential as ASF remains in the environment for a long time:
  - Offer support to authorities in carrying out these tasks.

#### Biosecurity:

- Make sure you have the necessary training and all equipment in place to implement biosecurity measures.
- When hunting, apply all necessary bio security measures and point it out to all involved stakeholders.

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Note that the trade in wild boar is banned due to Article 15(3) of Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709.