

African Swine Fever - Pandemic alert for hunting trips

African Swine Fever (ASF) has emerged in the Baltic countries, Poland and the adjacent countries such as Ukraine, Belarus and Russia since 2014. The first ASF outbreak areas were the African countries south of the Sahara Desert. ASF was presumably introduced from Africa via the Georgian Republic.

African Swine Fever is a serious viral infection in domestic pigs and wild boars that is lethal to them. It does not pose any risk to humans and other animals. But **humans** are the **main vectors** of the **African Swine Fever virus**. So far, there was no outbreak of ASF in Germany. Therefore hunters should consider the risks of ASF when planning a hunting trip.

ASF requires special caution during hunting trips to the endemic areas. Personal and meat hygiene is to be strictly adhered to during hunting trips:

1. **IT IS ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN TO IMPORT ANY PARTS OF WILD BOAR**, sausage or meat from the endemic countries.
2. Clothes, equipment and trophies pose a high risk of infection spread. That means that the equipment must be completely cleaned and disinfected on site before journeying home.
3. Clothes and equipment must not be taken into your home hunting ground before they were thoroughly cleaned. Even small blood stains must be removed.
4. When using your own car for the hunting trip, it must be thoroughly cleaned before the return journey in a service station car wash, with a special focus on the underbody. You must not take your car into your own hunting ground before the in-depth cleaning (both in- and outside).
5. Pig farmers should not take hunting trips into outbreak areas.
6. Feeding of pigs with food leftovers as well as meat- and fish offal is strictly forbidden.

More detailed information is available at:

www.bmel.de - German Ministry of Food and Agriculture

www.fli.de - Friedrich - Loeffler Institute

www.tierseucheninfo.niedersachsen.de - State Office of Lower Saxony for Consumer Protection and Food Safety

www.lavg.brandenburg.de – State Office for Occupational Safety, Consumer Protection and Health