

Law Enforcement Officers

Key information



The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has prepared these key messages, in partnership with INTERPOL, to raise awareness about African swine fever (ASF) among law enforcement officers.

What is African swine fever (ASF)?

ASF is a highly contagious disease of domestic and wild pigs. Mortality rates may be as high as 100%. Even though the disease is not a danger to human health it can easily be spread by humans, as the virus can survive on clothes, boots, wheels or even on pork products posted via international mail or carried by travelers. The disease can cross borders if adequate measures are not implemented. Currently, there is no approved vaccine against ASF. Prevention depends on the implementation of appropriate import policies and border controls to ensure that neither infected live pigs nor pork products are introduced into ASF-free areas.

Why is it so important that we stop the spread of this disease?

The recent upsurge of ASF around the globe was responsible for massive losses in pigs and drastic socio-economic consequences. This disease poses a major threat to pig health and welfare and, therefore, to pig production systems. Considering that pigs represent a main source of animal protein among a growing human population, ASF not only impacts the livelihoods of small and large-scale pig producers, but also threatens food security worldwide.

How can law enforcement officers help?

- Stay informed of the ASF cases in your country and region.
- Know what your police powers are in the event of an outbreak of African swine fever in your country.
- In case you notice any suspicious products of pork origin, illegal imported animals or illegal movements of swines, inform the national Veterinary Services.
- If you inspect farms, make sure you comply with proper precautions measures, such as wearing specific personal protective equipment, including gloves, masks, and glasses.
- Should you have to handle pork products, make sure to practice proper and frequent hand hygiene.
- Considering that currently there is no approved vaccine against ASF, monitor and report any trade or attempted sale of illegal vaccines to the proper authorities, including online.
- Investigate any suspicious introduction of swine or pork products into farms.

For more information:
www.oie.int/asf 

