

# African Swine Fever (ASF) *Information for Wild Game Harvesters*

## About African Swine Fever (ASF)

ASF is an **infectious viral disease of domestic and feral pigs**. It can result in a very high mortality rate in infected pigs and no vaccine or treatment is available. **People cannot be infected.**

## Australia is free from ASF

ASF poses a **significant threat** to the wild game and pork industry.

If introduced to Australia it would significantly impact pig health, production and the feral pig population. It's important to remain on alert for ASF as this serious disease continues to spread in neighbouring countries.

## How pigs can become infected

Feral and domestic pigs can become infected with ASF by:

- eating contaminated pork products and feed
- close contact with infected pigs
- contact with contaminated equipment

The greatest risk of introduction is from people illegally bringing pork or pork product into Australia from overseas and the products being fed to/eaten by pigs. The virus can remain for long periods in blood, faeces and tissues, particularly in chilled and frozen meat.

## Report signs of ASF

**Early detection is vital.**

If you suspect ASF please **report it to Biosecurity Queensland immediately** on 13 25 23 or **contact the Emergency Disease Watch Hotline** on 1800 675 888.

Where possible, **take photos** of suspect conditions or signs of disease and **record the location** (preferably GPS coordinates).



The **signs of ASF in pigs** can include:

- death (possibly before other signs are noticeable)
- blotching/reddening of the skin
- high fever
- lack of coordination or stiff gait
- difficulty breathing
- abortion
- diarrhoea
- vomiting

**Inspect carcasses** for:

- pinpoint reddening in organs such as heart and kidneys
- reddening of the skin
- excess fluid around the heart
- enlarged lymph nodes resembling blood clots
- enlarged, fragile and/or dark-coloured spleen

## Protect Australia's pigs

**People food is not pig food.**

The international spread of ASF has been linked to feral and domestic pigs eating food waste.

**You can help protect against ASF** by:

- always disposing of food waste and scraps properly
- never feeding pigs swill, which is food or food scraps that has come into contact with or contains animal matter such as meat and meat products

Swill feeding is illegal in all states and territories of Australia, including Queensland. If you suspect swill feeding, **report it to Biosecurity Queensland.**



## To prevent the spread of disease:

### DO

- ✓ wear disposable or washable protective clothing (aprons / gloves / overalls) when dressing feral pigs
- ✓ inspect all carcasses and carcass parts for evidence of disease or illness
- ✓ clean and disinfect all equipment on site
- ✓ respect all property quarantines and restrictions that are in place
- ✓ only hunt on one property each night
- ✓ thoroughly clean and disinfect vehicle after each night's harvesting

### DON'T

- ✗ have contact with domestic pigs if you hunt feral pigs
- ✗ move live animals (including piglets) to new locations
- ✗ keep feral pigs at home
- ✗ use swill to feed or trap feral pigs
- ✗ leave leftover food in the hunting area
- ✗ feed raw feral pig meat to dogs

## More information

For information about ASF visit [qld.gov.au/AfricanSwineFever](http://qld.gov.au/AfricanSwineFever) or call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Report suspicions of ASF to **Biosecurity Queensland** immediately or contact the **Emergency Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888**.

For information about food safety call **Safe Food Production Queensland** on (07) 3253 9800.