Preliminary Outbreak Assessment

African Swine Fever in the Czech Republic

27th June 2017

Disease report

Since our last update on 19th June, there have been two reports of cases of African Swine Fever (ASF) in wild boar in the Czech Republic (OIE, 2017). They both occurred in the Zlin region in the east of the country, 300 km south east of the capital, Prague. The carcases were detected and tested as part of the national surveillance programme for ASF. Both animals tested positive with real time PCR. Control measures will be put in place.

Situation assessment

Confirmation of ASF in wild boar in the Czech Republic is concerning as it represents a significant “jump” into a new region. The source of infection has not yet been confirmed,
but generally when a jump of this distance occurs, particularly given the high level of awareness in the region in general, it can be from feeding contaminated products rather than the movement of live animals.

The two animals were found dead within a short distance of each other, therefore a common source of infection may be identified. ASF has not been reported on any domestic pig farms and epidemiological expertise will inform the size of the control zone.

According to Traces, the EU Electronic Trade Notification System, there have been no recent consignments of live pigs from the Czech Republic to the UK. In terms of pig meat, the UK imports only a very small percentage of pig products from the Czech Republic (Approx. 0.34% per annum).

**Conclusion**

Despite these outbreaks, due to the low level of trade, the risk of ASF introduction to the UK remains very low (that is, “rare but could occur”). These cases represent a large “jump” and it remains to be seen whether this is an isolated occurrence.

There are EU rules in place to cover the safe trade in meat and other products of animal origin and the EU Implementing Decision concerning regionalisation for the affected Member States in the eastern EU was recently revised at the beginning of June 2017 to update the regions. This will be revised in the light of these new cases.

We would like to remind all pig keepers to be vigilant, maintain biosecurity including ensuring pigs are not fed catering waste or kitchen scraps, observing the swill feeding ban and report any clinical signs of suspect disease promptly to a veterinarian. Please see [https://www.gov.uk/guidance/african-swine-fever](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/african-swine-fever) for more information. We would like to remind the public that any feeding of meat products, including the feeding of swill, kitchen scraps and catering waste, to wild boar or feral pigs is also illegal.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

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References


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