



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

African Swine Fever

Know the signs

African swine fever (ASF) is a fatal contagious disease of domesticated pigs and wild boar. Pigs are infected through:

- Direct contact with other infected pigs
- Indirectly by eating infected meat or meat products and/or through contact with contaminated objects such as vehicles, clothes and equipment.

ASF poses no risk to human health.

ASF has spread significantly in recent years. It has been detected in parts of Europe, Asia and Africa in wild boar, on commercial farms, on smallholdings, and in pet pigs.

All four UK nations monitor the risk that ASF poses to the UK pig population and implement measures to prevent incursion of ASF.

ASF is a notifiable animal disease and must be reported to APHA if suspected. If you don't report it, you're breaking the law.

Clinical signs to look out for

The main clinical signs are:

- High fever
- Lethargy
- Reluctance to stand
- Loss of appetite
- Huddling and reluctance to move
- Red-purple skin discolouration especially at the extremities (e.g. ears)
- Some pigs may die suddenly with few signs beforehand

Other signs can include:

- Skin haemorrhages
- Discharges from the eyes and nose, which may be blood-stained
- Laboured breathing and coughing
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea which may be bloody
- Unsteady on their feet
- Abortion in pregnant sows

The African swine fever virus strain which has spread recently causes high mortality. It is vital that ASF is kept out of the UK pig population and the best prevention is by stopping any pig meat or meat products from ASF-infected areas from entering the UK.

Pig keepers must play their part by practising stringent biosecurity and never allowing their pigs to eat kitchen waste or meat/meat products.



High temperature and lethargy



Reddening of the ears



Conjunctivitis

Find out more information and how to report ASF by visiting www.gov.uk/guidance/african-swine-fever

