

Recommendation No. 2

Early detection and contingency plans for African swine fever

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Since the latest infection was notified in Georgia in June 2007, the African swine fever virus has spread through the European Region, currently affecting a number of countries in the Caucasus and Russia;
2. African swine fever is a highly contagious disease affecting both domestic and wild pigs of all ages and, even though it is not a zoonotic disease, it causes major economic losses and threaten food security owing to its ability to spread constantly and to the lack of available vaccines for its control;
3. African Swine Fever has no pathognomonic signs and lesions. The signs observed during acute and peracute infection depend on the virus isolate, the viral dose, the route of infection and these can be confused with other swine diseases presenting haemorrhagic lesions;
4. Early detection as well as accurate laboratory diagnosis are vital for controlling the spread of the virus;
5. The virus enter free zones mainly as a result of illegal movements of live pigs and pig products, and that infection occur either through direct contacts between pigs or by feeding pigs with non-heat-treated food waste prepared by using products from infected pigs;
6. Once the infection has become established in a specific zone, the disease is spread by the movement of carrier animals, contaminated transport vehicles and feeding healthy pigs with contaminated products. Ticks and wild boars can also be involved in the epidemiology of the disease;
7. In the absence of an effective treatment or vaccine, the strategy for preventing the entry of the virus at farm level should be based on good biosecurity practices such as, avoiding contact of domestic pigs with wild boars, banning non proper use of biological waste and feeding pigs with non-heat-treated pig products and tick control.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries support information and education programme for veterinarians (private and official) and livestock producers that warns of the risk of infection in the zone and describes the direct and indirect consequences of introducing the disease and that provides the main characteristics of the disease (routes of infection, clinical course, lesions, etc.) and basic biosecurity methods;

2. Member Countries conduct quick refresher training courses to review the clinical forms of the disease, the principal biosecurity measures for preventing the introduction of African swine fever, the biocontainment measures to be adopted in the event of a suspicion or infection, and the various laboratory diagnostic techniques available;
3. Member Countries implement an epidemiological surveillance plan specific to each country in the zone in which targeted samples should be selected on the basis of each zone's risk;
4. Member Countries reinforce movement controls in the affected zones to prevent the illegal movement of pigs or pig products and at risk materials;
5. Member countries better enforce their certification processes related to the movement of susceptible animals and products to avoid the movement of animals and products at risk;
6. Member Countries impose, at least, the ban of the use of non-heat-treated food wastes for feeding pigs and provide livestock producers with more information on the importance of not feeding their pigs with non-heat-treated food waste;
7. Member Countries ensure they have the reagents and appropriate virological and serological methods to conduct a proper diagnosis of the disease, as well as appropriate relation with OIE Reference Laboratories;
8. Member Countries have an up to date contingency plan and a practical manual of procedures describing the various actions to be taken during a suspected or confirmed outbreak in both commercial and backyard farming. As part of the contingency plan, the Member Countries should provide a contact telephone number that is available around the clock, every day of the year, for reporting any suspicion;
9. Member Countries work collaboratively on the improvement of the knowledge regarding the distribution of wild boar and of soft ticks of the *Ornithodoros* genus, and their epidemiological role in the disease;
10. In order to ensure optimal cooperation with farmers for disease control purposes, Member Countries ensure they have proper contingency funds created by relevant legislation for compensating, on time and at the right value, producers whose pigs are culled as part of a stamping-out policy using culling methods based on OIE relevant standards;
11. Member Countries to notify their epidemiological situation regarding African Swine Fever to the OIE and maintain permanent relations with their neighbouring countries in order to ensure proper actions are taken by all parties;
12. Member Countries ensure that their Veterinary Services encourage establishment of an integrated emergency response structure that takes into account all stakeholders;
13. Member Countries take into consideration the recommendations of the Technical Item 1 of this Conference on border controls;
14. Member Countries support regional workshops on African Swine Fever to help in the implementation of these recommendations.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 24 September 2010
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2011)