

African swine fever

Information for feral pig hunters

About African swine fever

African swine fever 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 African swine fever.

If it were introduced to Australia, African swine fever would significantly impact pig health, production and the feral pig population.

It's important to remain on alert for African swine fever as this serious disease of pigs continues to spread in neighbouring countries.

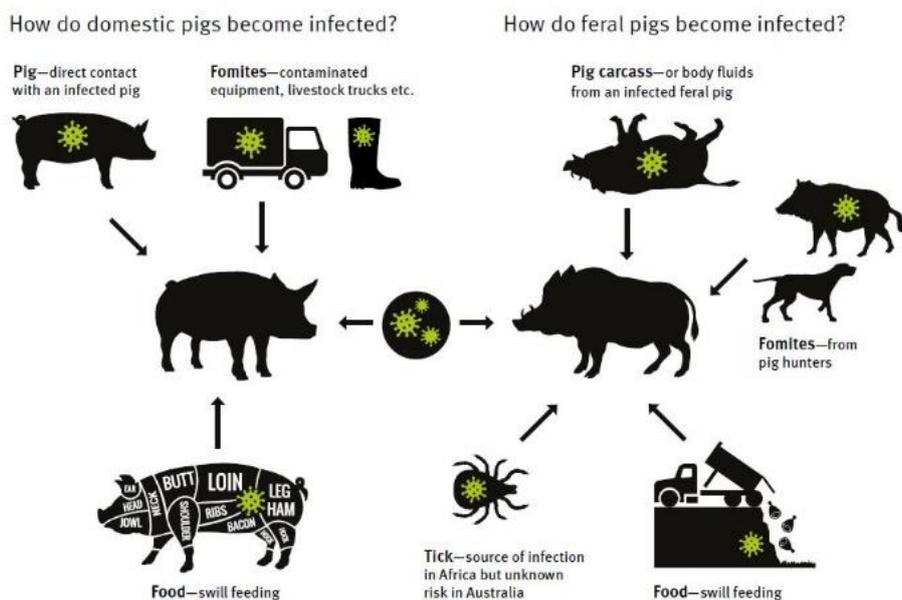
How pigs can become infected

Feral and domestic pigs can become infected with African swine fever virus by:

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

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

Transmission of African swine fever



If you suspect the presence of African swine fever, you must report it to **Biosecurity Queensland** on **13 25 23** or contact the **Emergency Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888**.



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Report signs of African swine fever

Early detection is vital.

The signs of African swine fever 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.

People food is not pig food

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

You can help protect against African swine fever by:

- always disposing of food waste and scraps properly so pigs can't access and eat them.
- 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** on **13 25 23**.

To prevent the spread of disease:

- 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 quarantines, biosecurity plans and restrictions that are in place
- only hunt on one property each night
- thoroughly clean and disinfect vehicle after each night's harvesting.

Do not

- 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 leftovers from your meals in the hunting area
- feed raw feral pig meat to dogs.

What should I do if I notice unusual clinical signs

If you suspect African swine fever, you must immediately contact **Biosecurity Queensland** on **13 25 23** or the **Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888**.

More information?

For more information on African swine fever call 13 25 23 or visit qld.gov.au/AfricanSwineFever

Subscribe to the biosecurity alerts at daf.qld.gov.au/alerts

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