

African Swine Fever outbreak in Gauteng

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African Swine Fever Outbreak – Biosecurity at Abattoirs

An outbreak of African swine fever (ASF) occurred in Gauteng with infected pigs delivered to abattoirs. African Swine fever is a highly contagious viral disease in pigs. (See additional information below)

Abattoir owners are reminded of their responsibility in terms of various legislation:

- The cleaning and sanitising of trucks in terms of the Meat Safety Act 40 of 2000
- A declaration of health and Origin for all batches delivered to the Abattoir to indicate the health and treatment of such animals
- The compulsory identification of all livestock delivered to the abattoir in terms of the Animal Identification Act 6 of 2002 and the Stock Theft Act 57 of 1959 with the completion and submittance of a 'Document identification' and 'Stock removal certificate' for all transactions. In the case of pigs tattooing can already be applied from the age of 1 Month old.

Additional biosecurity measures with treatment of vehicles and personnel entering the facility is also strongly advised

Kind regards

**G C NEETHLING
GENERAL MANAGER
RED MEAT ABATTOIR ASSOCIATION**

African Swine Fever (ASF)

ASF is a highly contagious viral disease of domestic pigs manifested by fever, blotching of skin, haemorrhage of the lymph nodes, internal organs and haemorrhage of the gastrointestinal tract. It is observed in acute and occasionally subacute and chronic forms.

Transmission

There is a natural cycle of the ASF virus between bush pigs, warthogs and giant forest hogs and some tick species (*Ornithodoros*) in which the virus replicates. The spread of the virus is by contact with affected pigs and infected fomites, ingestion of contaminated uncooked pork garbage, tick bites and contact with domestic and wild carrier pigs.

The virus is quite resistant to cleaning and disinfection. It survives for 2 – 4 months in an infected premises and 5 – 6 months in infected meats. The virus can survive in smoked or partly cooked sausages and other pork products. Humans are not susceptible to this disease.

Antemortem findings:

1. Incubation: 3 – 15 days
2. Fever (up to 42°C)
3. Laboured breathing, coughing
4. Nasal and ocular discharge
5. Loss of appetite and diarrhoea
6. Vomiting
7. Incoordination
8. Cyanosis of the extremities and haemorrhages of skin
9. In chronic stage, emaciation and edematous swelling under the mandible and over leg joints
10. Recumbency



Fig. 113: African swine fever. Blotchy skin, cyanosis and haemorrhage.

Post-mortem findings:

1. Blotchy skin cyanosis and haemorrhage (Fig. 113)
2. Enlarged spleen (splenomegaly, Fig 114)
3. Petechial haemorrhage on the kidneys (Fig. 115)
4. Enlarged and haemorrhagic gastrohepatic and renal lymph nodes
5. Haemorrhage in the heart
6. Hydrothorax, hydropericardium and ascites
7. Haemorrhage of the serous membranes
8. In chronic ASF pericarditis, and emaciated carcass

Judgement: Carcass of an animal affected with African Swine Fever is *condemned*. The animal is prohibited from entering the abattoir.

Differential diagnosis

Hog cholera, salmonellosis, erysipelas, Glasser's disease (*Haemophilus suis*) infection



Fig. 114: African swine fever. Enlarged spleen (splenomegaly).

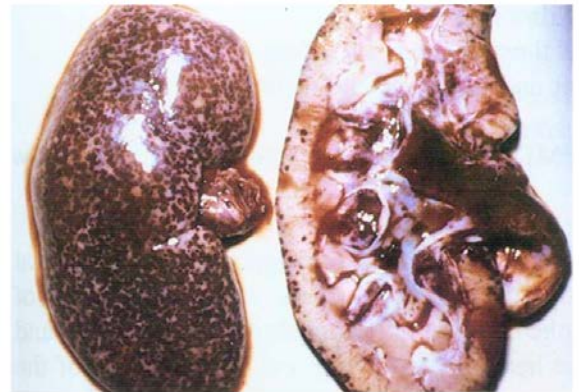


Fig. 115: African swine fever. Petechial and ecchymotic haemorrhage in the kidneys. Note haemorrhagic areas in the renal pelvis and papillae.

Ref: MANUAL ON MEAT INSPECTION FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, CHAPTER 4, SPECIFIC DISEASES OF PIGS, Diseases caused by viruses