



**TULLI**

TULL · CUSTOMS

**Information from Finland on the use of a sniffer  
dog at the EU external borders**

**Best practises to prevent an introduction of  
African swine fever**

## Detection dog for products of animal origin



- Finland's first food sniffer dog, 'Aino', owned by the Finnish Customs
- Golden Retriever, born 7.2.2017, bitch, from a trusted breeder
- Finnish Customs dogs are from hunting dog lines. Kind, agile and active dogs, those qualities are used in their training and duty
- All Finnish Customs dogs are part of the handlers family and live with the handler 24/7
- After the basic training Aino's education for products of animal origin began 2.5.2018
- Training was coordinated by the Finnish Customs Dog Training Centre which is involved in the training of all Customs dogs
- Instructions and guidance received from the Heathrow Airport Customs in London about the training process of food detection dog
- Aino's operational duty began 14.6.2018

# Detection dogs are part of the wider effort to prevent the spreading of animal diseases (e.g. ASF) to Finland

- Collaborative efforts by the public authorities (the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Finnish Food Authority, Customs, the Finnish Border Guard), co-operation strengthened since the ASF mission in August 2017
- Veterinary border inspection in close co-operation
- Reinforced internal training in Customs
- Reinforced training from the Finnish Food Authority to Customs
- Inspection of goods which might transmit animal diseases, disinfection of empty livestock vehicles
- Passenger restrictions, control of personal consignments
- New information material produced



# Intensified efforts to prevent the spreading of ASF to Finland

- Pilot started from the FIN-RUS border
- Information boards at the BCPs (pilot in Vaalimaa)
- Food waste containers ('amnesty bins') for personal consignments of food of animal origin at the BCPs (pilot in Vaalimaa)
- The food sniffer dog Aino (more publicity gained for the import restrictions)
- Information through the media
- Posters, leaflets, videos, press releases, interviews, articles in different media, contacts to embassies, consulates...
- Ongoing process
- Illegal meat/milk products are brought to the border mostly by people who are not aware of the regulations





## Illegal meat and dairy products detected by Aino

- All Finnish Customs dogs are trained by play. Clicker + treat used in training. Final reward for the dog is playing with her favorite toy or receiving a dog treat
- The role of the dog is to help Finnish Customs in detecting illegal personal consignments of meat/dairy products at the EU external borders
- Aino and her handler Seija Kontunen work mainly at the eastern BCPs. They can work nationwide also in ports, airports and international post offices
- Aino detects all kinds of raw, processed, frozen, dried, canned, vacuum packed meat and dairy products. From **June 2018 to December 2018** Aino has detected nearly **600 kilos** of illegal meat/dairy products
- In **January 2019** Aino has detected about **70 kilos** of illegal meat/dairy products
- Most common detected products are sausages, raw meat, fat, canned meat and some milk products



- Aino detects meat/dairy products from cars (sniffing the cars from outside) as well as from sniffing personal luggage. Detected cases vary from few slices of ham up to 40 kg of meat.



Nuijamaa Border Crossing Point

- Aino indicates target vehicle by pointing the vehicle with her nose and staying next to it.  
Aino indicates meat/dairy products by keeping her nose touching the target and staying still.



Nuijamaa Border Crossing Point



- Cold weather is part of the job during winter, hot weather during summer. Aino can work for about 10 hours per day if needed but always in short working periods (about 20 minutes working periods if the weather is very hot/cold).



Imatra Border Crossing Point

# Experiences gained and plans for the future

- Experiences from intensified actions (e.g. sniffer dog, information boards, food waste containers) have been really positive
- Information boards and food waste containers are taken into use at all BCPs with third country traffic
- Budgetary funding (1 milj. euros) for Customs provided by the Government
- Customs have decided to train a second sniffer dog which will be located at the Airport Customs:
  - Selection of handler finalized in few weeks
  - Dog Training Centre will make selection of the new puppy
  - Operational duty of the second food dog begins during summer 2020
- Modification of the Animal Disease Act gives Customs competence to check food consignments also at the EU internal borders



- Aino as a trainee working in car flow in port: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuWwz4c7ZBQ>
- Aino as a trainee detecting meat/milk from luggage at the airport: <https://www.facebook.com/tullikoirat1/videos/2228231750789569/>
- Aino detecting meat from luggage at the press release of the food dog in Vaalimaa BCP 14.6.2018: <https://www.facebook.com/tulli.fi/videos/832757810240688/>
- Customs dogs have their own Facebook account (in Finnish only): Tullikoirat
- Information on the restrictions of personal imports:  
[https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/globalassets/tietoa-meista/julkaisut/esitteet/elaimet/matkustajaesite\\_pieni.pdf](https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/globalassets/tietoa-meista/julkaisut/esitteet/elaimet/matkustajaesite_pieni.pdf)  
[https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/globalassets/tietoa-meista/julkaisut/esitteet/elaimet/yksityinen\\_elintarvutuonti\\_laaja.pdf](https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/globalassets/tietoa-meista/julkaisut/esitteet/elaimet/yksityinen_elintarvutuonti_laaja.pdf)
- Videos of ASF information (in Finnish only but subtitles for other languages will be added soon; the third video is for passengers):  
<https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/viljelijat/elaintenpito/elainten-terveys-ja-elaintaudit/elaintaudit/siat/afrikkalainen-sikarutto/asf-videot/>

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Section Animal Health and Welfare, 25 February 2019



**LIHA- JA MAITO- TUOTTEIDEN YKSITYINEN TUONTI KIELLETTY!**  
Heitä nämä tuotteet merkittyihin jätteastioihin.

**ВВОЗ ФИЗИЧЕСКИМИ ЛИЦАМИ МЯСНЫХ И МОЛОЧНЫХ ПРОДУКТОВ ЗАПРЕЩЕН!**  
Выбросите данные продукты в специально указанные мусорные контейнеры.

**PRIVAT IMPORT AV KÖTT- OCH MJÖLKPRODUKTER FÖRBJUDEN!**  
Släng dessa produkter i de markerade sopkärlen.

**PRIVATE IMPORT OF MEAT AND MILK PRODUCTS PROHIBITED!**  
Dispose of these products in the marked bins.

mmm.fi Evira

Thank you!

**TORJUMME ELÄINTAUTEJA!**  
**МЫ БОРЕМСЯ С ЗАБОЛЕВАНИЯМИ ЖИВОТНЫХ!**  
**VI BEKÄMPAR DJURSJKDOMAR!**  
**WE COMBAT ANIMAL DISEASES!**



**Finland:** Vakavien eläintautien leviäminen Suomeen halutaan estää. Sikoja tappava, herkästi tarttuva afrikkalainen sikarutto (ASF) leviää villisianlihan ja sianlihan välityksellä. Ihmiseen tauti ei tartu. **Liha- ja maitotuotteiden yksityinen tuonti Suomeen on kielletty. Heitä nämä tuotteet merkittyihin jätteastioihin.**

**Russia:** Мы пытаемся предотвратить распространение в Финляндии серьезных заболеваний животных. Африканская чума свиней (АЧС) смертельна для свиней. Она передается через мясо дикого кабана и свинину. Для человека это заболевание опасности не представляет. **Ввоз физическими лицами мясных и молочных продуктов в Финляндию запрещен. Выбросите данные продукты в специально указанные мусорные контейнеры.**

**Sweden:** Vi vill förhindra farliga djursjukdomar från att spridas till Finland. Den afrikanska svinpesten (ASF) är en mycket smittsam sjukdom som dödar grisar. AFS sprids via kött från vildsvin och tamgrisar. Människor smittas inte av sjukdomen. **Privat import av kött- och mjölkprodukter till Finland är förbjuden. Släng dessa produkter i de markerade sopkärlen.**

**UK:** We wish to prevent serious animal diseases from spreading to Finland. The African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious disease that kills pigs. ASF spreads via meals from wild boars and domestic pigs. The disease does not spread to humans. **Private import of meat and milk products to Finland is prohibited. Dispose of these products in the marked bins.**

mmm.fi Evira