



Mission of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) to Hungary

(24-25 April 2018)

Objective

- **Reason: occurrence** of ASF in the locality of Gyöngyös (Heves county)
- **ToR: provide assistance** to the scientific, technical, managerial and practical on-the-spot assistance on the refinement of the most suitable control and eradication measures for African Swine Fever (ASF) under local conditions, especially **as regards wildlife management and epidemiological investigations.**
- **Expert:** Vittorio Guberti (ITA), Petr Satran (CZ)

Background

Epidemiological evaluation:

- A dead wild boar was found in the district of Gyöngyös (Heves county) on 19th April;
- Sample was taken and sent to the National Reference Laboratory (Budapest) and ASF virus was confirmed on 21st April by PCR test;
- The source of virus introduction is not clear and still under investigation;

Background

- The dead wild boar was found by tourists approximately 30 m from a hunting tower and 50 m from a feeding point;
- Samples were taken by hunters without any prior communication to the Local Veterinary Service;
- The carcass was buried after sampling;
- The positive animal was about 1 year of age and the carcass aged 2-3 days, but no photos were available;

Epidemiological evaluation still on going

Passive surveillance was in place in the area before the introduction;

During the 2017/2018 hunting year, in the framework of passive surveillance, 13 dead animals have been found in the whole Heves county ;

During the mission the precise borders of the infected area have to be fine tuned.

Findings and Conclusions

- **3 512,44 km²** hunting surface in **Heves county**
- **3 087** total wild boar estimated (1 March)
- Pre-reproductive density of **0,88 WB/km²**

- Infected hunting ground **54 km²**
- During the hunting year 2017/18 **hunted 190 WB**
- Feeding of WB is practiced

Findings and Conclusions

DOMESTIC PIG

In Heves county **5 pig commercial** farms

- In total **5700 pigs**
- the largest farm **3800 fattening** pigs

Proposed infected zone:

About **200 back yard** holdings with approximately **700 pigs** (census not yet carried out)

Recommendations

- *Wild boar* **passive surveillance** has to be permanently enforced; each found dead wild boar has to be reported to the local Veterinary Service;

AIMS:

1. Reduce as soon as possible the virus environmental load (thus probability to infect domestic pigs)
2. Define precisely the size of the infected area
3. Follow the evolution of the epidemic and thus allowing to fine tune control measures

Recommendations

PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE

- In all the forested areas where the positive wild boar has been found active search should be carried out in a radius of **at least 300 m around each feeding points**;
- In the hunting **grounds bordering** the infected;
- Active search should be carried out also **south to the highway road (M3) that borders** the infected area;

Recommendations

- Involved hunters must be informed about procedures to reduce the possible further spread of the virus in the environment and outside the infected area;
- Carcasses secured in plastic bags and transported to the nearest road and then to the render plant by authorized vehicles;
- Samples taken at the rendering plant by an authorized veterinarian;

Recommendations

Infected area should be divided in:

1. CORE ZONE: area with infected animals;

The final core zone will be shaped adding 3-5 km to the line connecting the above points taking also into account artificial barriers. It is expected that the core area will encompass at least 50-70 km²;

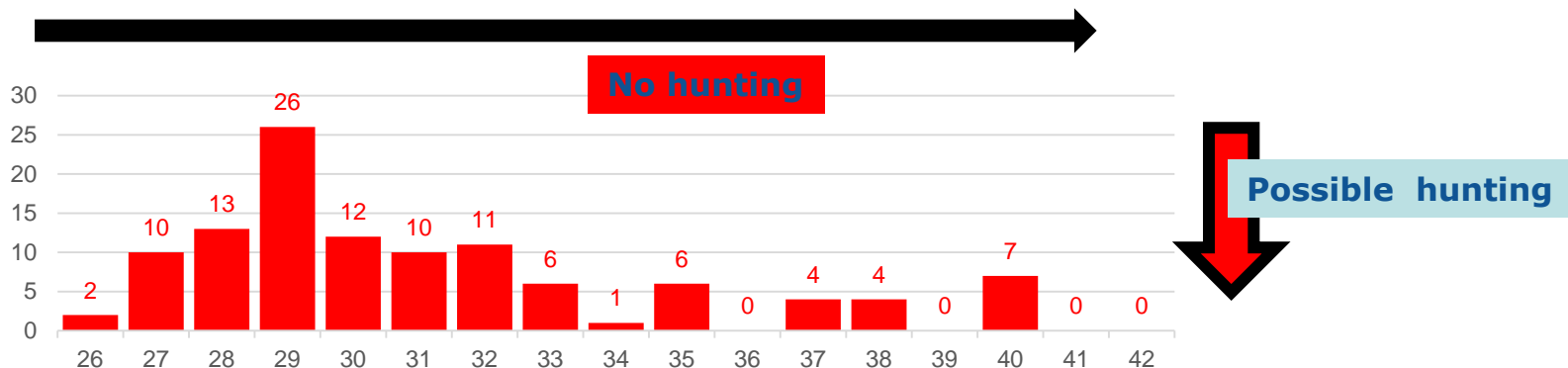
2. BUFFER ZONE: around the core zone a further buffer of about 5 km has to be created; it expected that Core + buffer will encompass about 300 Km²;

3. LEFT ZONE: representing the whole infected area outside the core + buffer zones;

Recommendations

Ban of wild boar hunting in CORE and BUFFER zone until:

- 1. Proper hunting biosecurity will be implemented*
- 2. Passive surveillance will reveal the final stage of the local epidemic;*



Recommendations

In the LEFT zone

- As soon as the **biosecurity measures** are fully implemented and **hunters trained** culling of adult wild boars will be allowed;
- Each culled wild boar will be **tested** (virological test and possibly serological test);
- Each culled wild boar will be **rendered**.

Recommendations

Hunting in neighbouring free areas

- 1. Intensive wild boar hunting** has to be facilitated and implemented;
- 2. Any type of hunting** (single hunting, driven hunting, night hunting etc.) could be authorised;
 - The goal is to **reduce as much as possible** the size and the density of the wild boar population
 - **Adult female class** should be primarily targeted.

Recommendations

Domestic pigs

- 1. Census** of holdings and pigs in the restricted area;
- 2. Passive surveillance** implemented: each dead pig (adult, post weaned) tested irrespectively of the of the mortality causes; at least 2 dead piglets tested for each day during which abnormal mortality is observed;
- 2. Biosecurity** measures implemented in the domestic pig farms have to be reinforced and verified regularly directly by the Competent Veterinary Authorities;

Recommendations

AWARENESS

- **Hunters:** dead wild boar
- **Farmers:** suspect cases
- **General public:** dead wild boar, presence of the virus in the forest and recreational areas
- **Privat veterinarian:** biosecurity, case definition, reporting
- **Official veterinarian:** different team for wild boar and domestic pig

Thank you for your attention!

The CVET team wish to thank all colleagues from Hungary for their support and help given.

The working atmosphere during the mission was very good.

The colleagues from Hungary gave all their support and assistance to facilitate a fruitful mission.