



# Mission of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team to Romania

SCOPE of the mission: wild boar management  
in the framework of African swine fever

(23 June 2016 )

# Terms of Reference

The expert should provide assistance to the scientific, technical, managerial and practical on-the-spot assistance on the development and refinement of the most suitable prevention and control measures for African Swine Fever (ASF) under local conditions, especially as regards wildlife management.

Taking into account the latest EFSA conclusions and the working document SANTE/7113/2015 (Rev 4) on the ASF Strategy for Eastern Part of the EU, the expert should provide recommendations to the Romanian authorities on how to refine the ASF strategy for wild boar.

## CVET experts

- Dr Vittorio Guberti – team leader, IT
- Dr Tomasz Podgórski - PL

# The ASF situation

- *The Country is **ASF free**; however due to the **epidemiological situation in Ukraine** there is a high risk of introduction of the virus in territory of Romania. The assessment carried out in the Country indicates **wild boar as one of the main threat for virus introduction**. The eight counties bordering Moldova and Ukraine, are considered the most likely to be infected.*
- *Preventive actions, following the EU strategy laid down in SANTE/7113/2015 (Rev 4), have been carried out and among them a **wild boar management focused to ASF has been requested to the Romanian authorities directly in charge of wildlife management**.*

# Wild boar management

- The size of the pre-reproductive Romanian wild boar population is estimated in about **90.000** individuals (March 2016) with a hunting quota of **30.000 individuals**. Wild boar population density is relatively low and ranges from **0,11 to 0,77 wild boar/Km<sup>2</sup>**. However, the official wild boar population density refers to the total surface of the counties. Therefore, the density is higher when calculated on the agricultural and forest areas only.

# Wild boar management

## ***Baiting and supplementary feeding***

*Winter-feeding is allowed and largely practiced.*

## ***The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve***

*The Reserve, 580000 ha, borders Ukraine and is considered an ASF high risk area. Hunting is not allowed. Due to its special legal status, the Reserve has its own monitoring system that could address the early detection of ASF virus also.*

## ***ASF early detection in wild boar***

*The early detection strategy is based on passive surveillance. Additionally, in the 8 counties bordering Ukraine and Moldova, samples collected in the framework of the CSF surveillance program are also tested for ASF. However it appears that the efficiency of the passive surveillance is rather low (few dead wild boar reported).*

# Wild boar management

## *Biosecurity measures during hunting*

Hunters and public bodies in charge of hunting management are aware of the relevant biosecurity measures to be applied during hunting, dressing and transporting animals. However, there is **uncertainty about a proper implementation of these measures in the field**. It was highlighted that the **lack of biosecurity measures during hunting can be counteractive in respect to ASF control/eradication.**

# RECCOMANDATIONS

## *Wild boar management in relation to ASF*

Due to the high probability that the virus will be introduced in the Country it is recommended to initiate as soon as possible a specific wild boar management addressed **to reduce the wild boar density through measures suggested in the “ASF Strategy for Eastern Part of the EU” (SANTE/7113/2015 – Rev 4)**, such as increased hunting bag, higher proportion of shot females together with ban on supplementary feeding.

## Early detection, carcasses retrieval and disposal

Since ASF virus is more likely to be detected through passive surveillance it is recommended to increase awareness among officers in charge of wild boar management (Ministry of Environment) hunters, foresters and thus fostering wild boar carcass reporting. In the free areas of already infected countries, it has been observed that the number of dead carcasses reported is about **1% of the estimated local wild boar population**. Similar passive surveillance efficiency should be achieved at least in the 8 high risk counties.

## Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve

It is recommended to **increase the passive surveillance** for the whole area involving the staff employed by the Reserve. If ASF will be detected in the Reserve **an addressed eradication plan has to be developed and implemented in agreement with the international mandate of the Reserve.**

# Biosecurity measures during hunting

- Need to minimise the risk of spread of the virus to the environment once ASF is detected.
  - In each hunting ground has an appropriate **dressing area** with tools which must remain in the facility
  - Dressing rooms are equipped with **tap water** and effective **disinfectants** to be used regularly
  - **Offal are not abandoned in the forest** but stored in proper containers or in ground pits located in close proximity of the dressing facilities
  - Hunted animals are **stored** in the hunting ground facilities and released only when tested negative to ASF.
  - Stored wild boars are **individually identified**. In case of ASF positive outcome (virus or antibody positive tests) all stored animals have to be **disposed under veterinary supervision** and the whole dressing room cleaned and disinfected.

# Awareness campaigns

- Continue organising awareness campaigns **for hunters** emphasising the importance of **carcass search** and **proper disposal of offal** of each hunted wild boar; informing about the ASF strategy and the intended goals so to encourage the participation of hunters and other relevant stakeholders.



**Thank you for your attention!**