

# Member's update on ASF and other high-impact swine diseases

## Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China



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# ***Background Information on Local Pig Farming in Hong Kong***

- There are **43 licensed pig farms** in Hong Kong
  - Maximum rearing capacity = 74 640 pigs
  - Mainly small to medium-scale farms (77%) holding <2000 pigs
  - Traditional pig farming practice (family-based) with basic biosecurity measures in place
- Currently, around **92% of daily live pigs consumed** in Hong Kong are **imported from Mainland China**, with the remaining supplied by the 43 local pig farms
- All imported live pigs must originate **from registered farms approved by the General Administration of Customs** of the People's Republic of China
- In 2024, local pig production was valued at **\$279 million HKD**

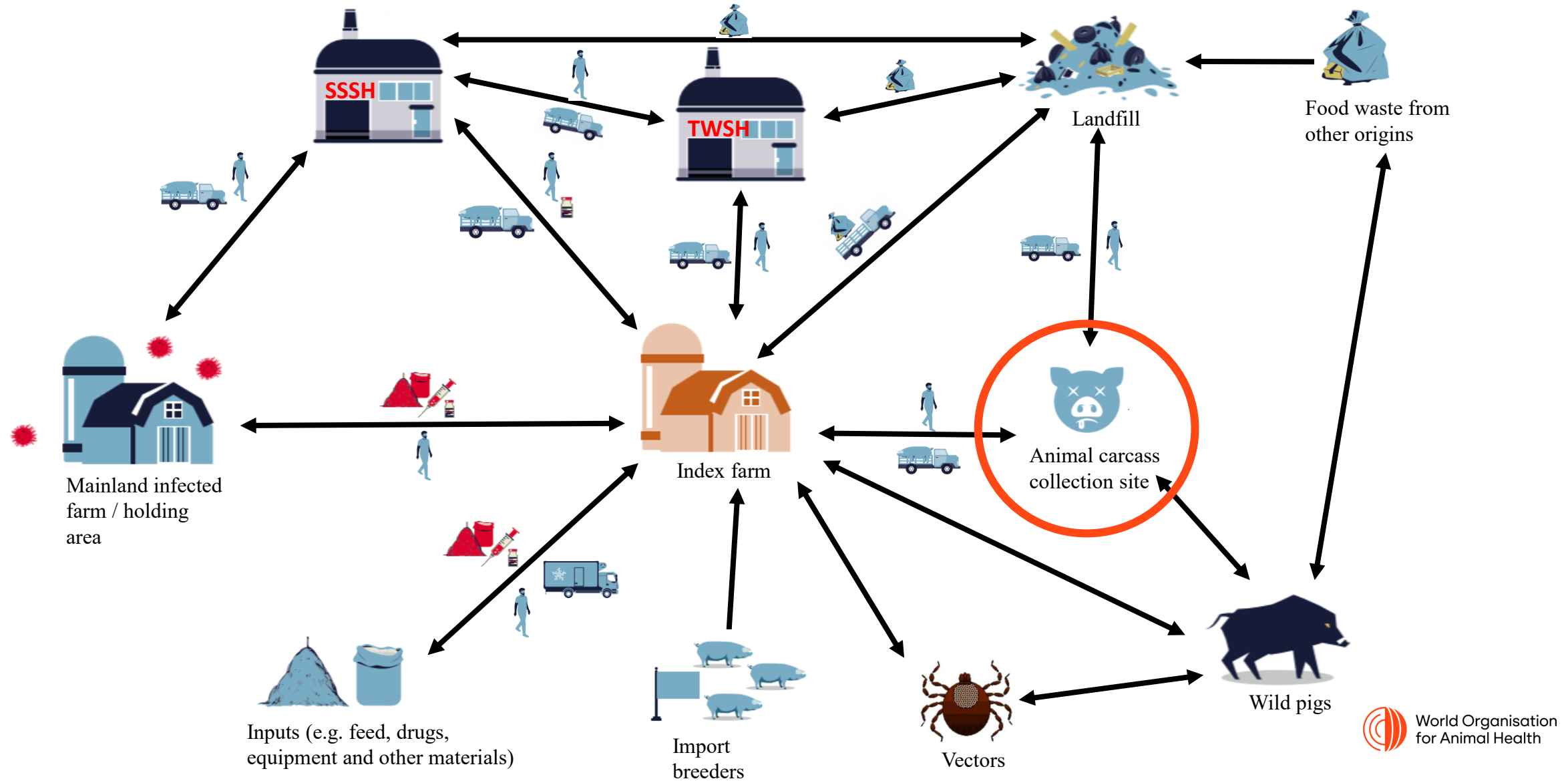


# Disease Status of African Swine Fever

- **ASF outbreaks at slaughterhouse level:**
  - *Three outbreaks reported in the slaughterhouse in 2019*
- **ASF outbreaks at farm level:**
  - *First local farm ASF outbreak in January 2021, 3,979 pigs culled*
  - *Second local farm ASF outbreak in February 2023, 107 pigs culled*
  - *10 outbreaks in local pig farms from November 2023 to January 2024, 17 457 pigs culled*
    - *7 out of the 10 outbreak index farms in 2023/24 had resumed normal operations as July 2025*
  - *3 outbreaks in local pig farms within January 2025, 6 052 pigs culled*
- **ASF outbreaks in wild pigs**
  - *ASF is not frequently found in wild pigs*
    - *< 10 % of carcasses tested and <1% of blood samples collected*

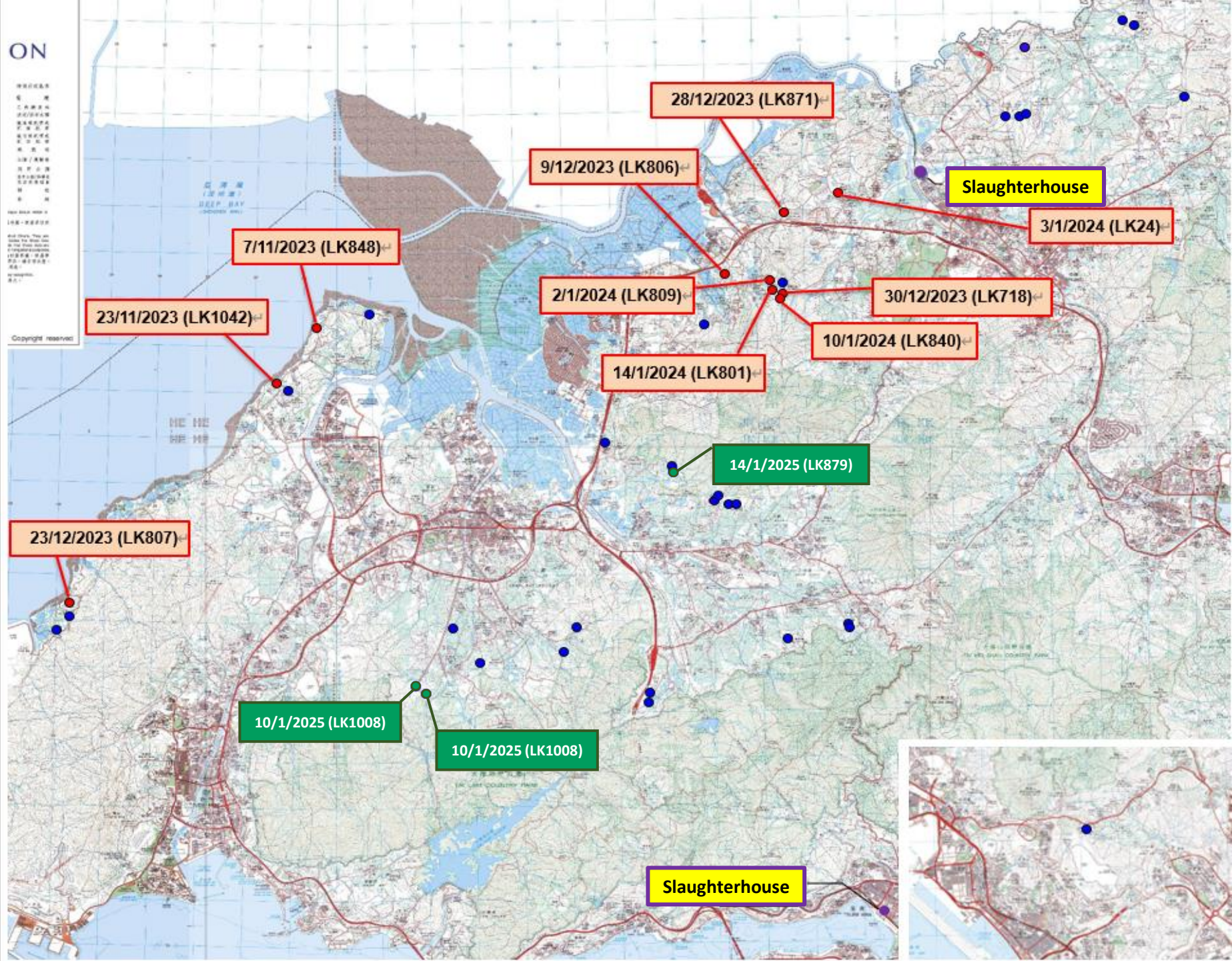


## ***African Swine Fever – Risk Pathway***





ASF Outbreak  
Map (2023-2025)





# Other Pig Diseases

- *Sporadic outbreaks of other diseases in pigs:*

- *Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS)*
- *Porcine circovirus associated disease (PCV-2)*
- *Glässer's disease (*Glaesserella parasuis*)*
- *Porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED)*
- *Etc.....*



- *Causing certain economic loss on local pig production from time to time*
- *Generally controllable by biosecurity measures and/or vaccination in local pig farms*
- *Free veterinary services for all local pig farms provided by local institution funded by the government*

# Prevention and Control Measures at Local Pig Farms

- **Implementing strict biosecurity measures, e.g.**
  - Importation restrictions from ASF-infected places
  - Ban on swill feeding
  - Minimize visitor entry to pig farm
  - Avoid any potential direct/indirect contact between domestic pigs/wild pigs
  - Proper cleansing and disinfection of materials and equipment
- **Enhanced ASF surveillance at local pig farms:**
  - Mandatory Pig Carcasses ASF Testing
  - Pre-sale Pig ASF Testing
- **Communication materials for awareness raising**





# Prevention and Control Measures at Slaughterhouses



**Source Control**  
源頭控制



Disinfection pool for vehicles  
進出車輛消毒池



Lairage disinfection  
豬欄消毒



Ante-mortem inspection  
宰前檢驗



Suspected cases  
detained for further  
inspection  
扣留懷疑個案的豬隻  
進行覆檢



Post-mortem inspection  
宰後檢驗



Enhanced cleansing and  
disinfection for pig  
transportation vehicles  
運豬車輛加強清潔及消毒



**Daily Clearance**  
日日清



# Prevention and Control Measures at the Wildlife Interface

- *Wild pig is one of the possible transmission routes for ASF*
- *Since Nov 2019, the **ASF Surveillance Programme on Wild Pigs** has been launched*
- *As of 31 April 2025, AFCD had conducted ASF testing on **117 wild pig carcasses** and **925 blood samples** from wild pigs*
  - *Among these, **6 wild pig carcasses** and **1 blood sample** were tested positive for ASF*
- *ASF transmission risk of wild pig should be made aware to farmers*



# Laboratory Capacity

- **Tai Lung Veterinary Laboratory of AFCD**
  - *NATA and HOKLAS accredited laboratory*
- **In-house PCR test, genetic sequencing and analysis**
- **Collaborate with The Pirbright Institute, UK (WOAH reference laboratory for ASF)**
  - *Virus isolation, hemadsorption, genetic sequencing and analysis, and serology*
- **Participation in Quality Assurance Programme with CSIRO, Australia**





# Challenges and Possible Solutions

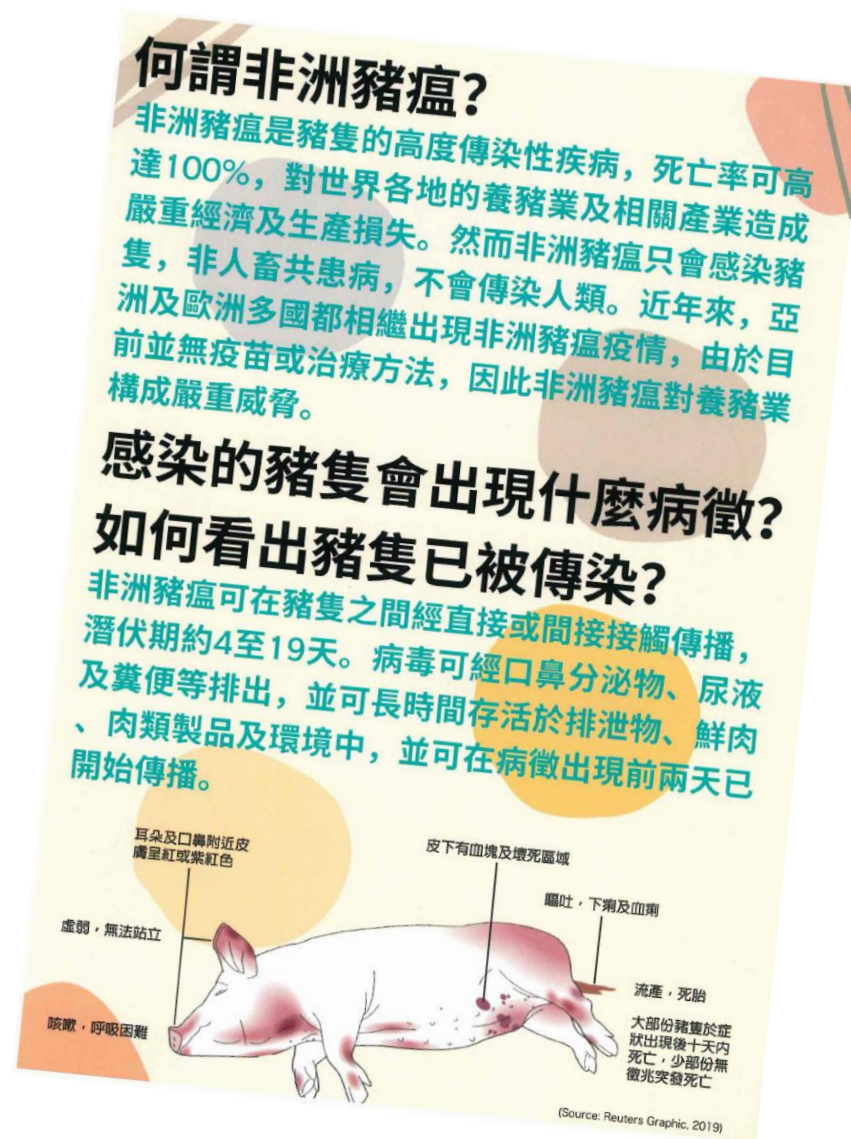
- *Clinical signs of ASF are usually **non-specific***
  - *ASF is an **exotic disease** in Hong Kong that local pig farmers are generally not aware of the corresponding clinical signs*
- *Local pig farms are generally **limited in space, facilities and technologies** to implement strict biosecurity measures*

*New measures to enhance prevention and control ASF in 2024/25:*

- ***Amended Licence Conditions** for pig farmer to enhance biosecurity (in Jan 2024)*
  - *Stipulate separation of production and non-production areas on farm*
  - *Introduce compulsory dead pig ASF testing*
- *Strengthen **ASF surveillance on pre-sale pigs***
- *Develop **ASF case reporting guidelines** for pig farmers*
- *Provide **rapid ASF test kit** for farmers to conduct on-farm testing on their own to **facilitate early detection***



# African Swine Fever – Reporting Guidelines





# African Swine Fever – Reporting Guidelines (Scoring System)

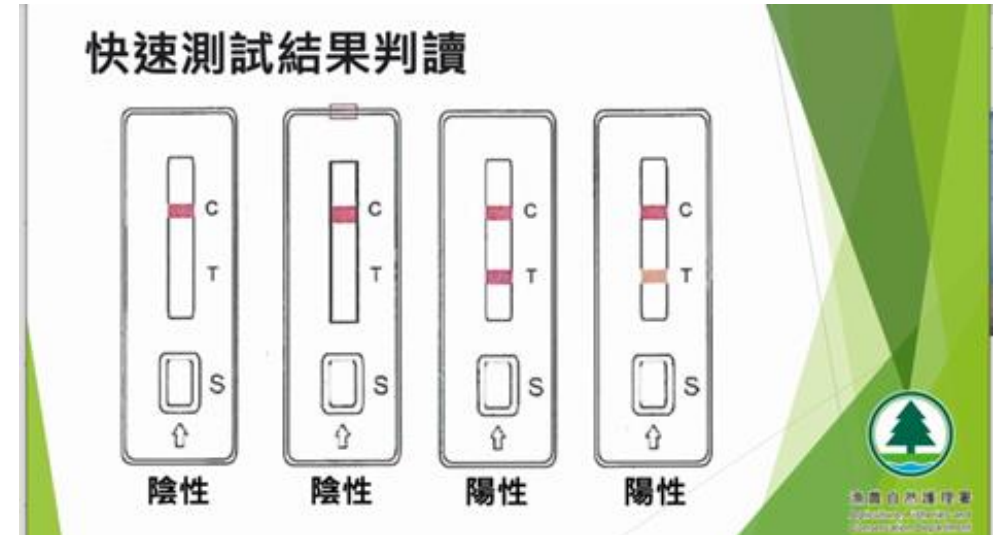
Sign	病徵	評分
High fever (>40°C) - 4	高燒 (>40°C)	4
Skin with purple-bluish spots / Erythema - 4/2	皮膚呈現紫藍斑點 / 皮膚充血泛紅	4 / 2
Completely off-feed / Decreased food intake - 4/2	完全不願進食 / 採食量下降	4 / 2
Repeated vomiting (especially with blood) / Occasional vomiting - 4/2	多次重複嘔吐 (尤其是吐血) / 偶爾嘔吐	4 / 2
Pregnant sows experiencing abortion or stillbirth – 4	懷孕母豬流產或死產	4
Neurological signs (e.g. hind limb paralysis or incoordination) - 3	神經症狀 (如後肢麻痺或行動不協調)	3
Depression, lethargy, unwillingness to move - 3	精神沉鬱、嗜睡、不願意移動	3
Emaciation - 3	消瘦	3
Bloody diarrhea / Diarrhea / Decreased defecation - 3/2/1	出血性下痢 / 下痢 / 排便量減少	3 / 2 / 1
Respiratory signs (e.g. coughing or dyspnea) - 2	呼吸道症狀 (如咳嗽或呼吸困難)	2
Bloody discharge / Increased secretions from nose and mouth - 2/1	口鼻出血 / 口鼻分泌增加	2 / 1

If the total score  $\geq$  **10**  
**Suspected ASF Case**

Example :

Off-feed (4)  
 + Abortion (4)  
 + Diarrhea (2)  
**Total score = 10**

# ***African Swine Fever – Rapid Test Kit***



**Guiding Video &  
Result Interpretation**



# ***Proposal for Future Activities***

- ***Information sharing on the potential development of valid ASF vaccine***
  - *Countries' experience on the evaluation of ASF vaccination and monitoring of vaccine efficacy*
  - *Differentiating infected from vaccinated animals*
- ***Explore alternative ASF Outbreak Management Approach***
  - *Alternative measures to complete culling and depopulation in ASF outbreaks*
  - *Evaluate effectiveness of selective culling (tooth extraction approach)*
- ***Information sharing on the emergence of low virulent ASF viruses***

# Thank you



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