

P28 - Is the African swine fever epidemic in Estonian and Latvian wild boar subsiding? Epidemiological analyses of surveillance data

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In Estonia and Latvia, African Swine Fever (ASF) has been circulating since 2014. The control of ASF in wild boar has proven to be difficult. However, recent surveillance data from these two countries suggest an increase of exclusively ASF-seropositive and a decrease of PCR-positive wild boar. Following recent findings, it can be hypothesized that in areas, where the number of seropositive, but PCR-negative, animals dominates, the incidence of ASF infections is decreasing. When we investigated the course of the ASF epidemic, we tested the hypothesis that the ASF epidemic might be subsiding in Estonian and Latvian wild boar.

ASF surveillance data of wild boar, obtained from the CSF/ASF wild boar surveillance database of the European Union (<https://surv-wildboar.eu>), were used to estimate and compare the prevalences of ASF virus-positive and ASF-seropositive wild boar in defined regions between 2014 and 2019. Statistical analyses were performed using the software package R (<http://www.r-project.org>).

In both countries, an increase of wild boar that were ASF-seropositive, but PCR-negative was detected. This increase was first observed in areas that had been affected at the start of the epidemic in 2014, but later also in regions where ASF occurred only within the last 2-3 years. Simultaneously, the prevalence of PCR-positive wild boar decreased over time. The results of our study may indicate that ASF in wild boar has started to subside in Estonia and Latvia. However, it remains to be seen, if and where new ASF cases will occur in the future.

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