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EVOLUTION OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER, IN ROMANIA, DURING 2017-2022

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African swine fever (ASF) is an infectious disease with particularly important negative socio-economic effects. ASF can affect both, domestic pigs (regardless of the breeding system) and various species of wild pigs (*Sus scrofa*). Clinically, the disease is characterized by hyperthermia, cardiovascular, respiratory and nervous disorders that are similar to those found in classical swine fever. From an anatomopathological point of view, African swine fever is primarily characterized by haemorrhagic diathesis lesions.

Currently, the disease evolves enzootically in sub-Saharan Africa (28 countries). In Europe, the disease is endemic in Sardinia, and in 2007 it also appeared in the Caucasian region (Georgia), in Armenia and Azerbaijan. Cases of ASF have been reported in Russian Federation, Ukraine, the Baltic countries, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Moldova, Romania (2017) and China (2018).

The aim of this study was to obtain a comprehensive image and to describe the current African swine fever situation in Romania, the economic effects and the pigs population damage caused by this virus in the last 6 years. The present study has been carried out on the existing pig population both in private households and in intensive breeding systems, in Romania, over a period of six years 2017-2022.

In order to obtain preliminary data on the epidemiological situation and the evolution of African swine fever in Romania between 2017-2022, report from the World Organization for Animal Health (<https://www.oie.int/en/home/>) as well as data taken from the National Veterinary Sanitary and Food Safety Authority (<http://www.ansvsa.ro/>) were analyzed. Moreover, other informations used in this work were processed from the National Institute of Statistics (<https://insse.ro/cms/>).

The first case of infection with the African swine fever virus in Romania was confirmed on 31.07.2017, in a household located on the outskirts of the municipality of Satu-Mare. From that moment until the end of 2022, according to the data transmitted by the World Organization for Animal Health, a number of 1.368.509 cases of infection with ASF virus were suspected in pigs. On the other hand, a number of 18.685 wild boars were infected with ASF virus between 2017-2022.

Despite all the efforts made by authorities, to combat African swine fever, the epidemiological data collected until the end of 2022 shows that the problem of this disease is not solved. This means that Romanian authorities must to intensify the fight against this disease and apply the following measures: killing the suspected pigs, destruction of corpses and compensation to affected owners.

Keywords: *African Swine Fever, infectious disease, pig, Romania, wild boar.*