



Peer-review of study guide

"African swine fever". A. S. Igolkin, K. N. Gruzdev.

Vladimir: FGBI "ARRIAH", 2021. 126 p.: fig. ISBN 978-5-900026-79-4

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Рецензия на учебно-методическое пособие

«Африканская чума свиней». А. С. Иголкин, К. Н. Груздев.

Владимир: ФГБУ «ВНИИЗЖ», 2021. 126 с.: ил. ISBN 978-5-900026-79-4

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African swine fever (ASF) is the disease of wild and domestic pigs caused by the DNA virus of *Asfarviridae* family, *Asfivirus* genus. The virus strains and isolates are characterized by a considerable genetic and immunologic diversity, responsible for the differences in their biological properties. Since the ASF genotype II serotype 8 virus was introduced in our country (2007) this problem has been the most challenging one for the domestic pig production, causing significant economic losses to the whole industry and posing a serious threat to the national food security. In recent years, ASF virus has covered countries to the West and East from the Russian Federation, thus significantly expanding its habitat; and the disease itself brings multi-billion losses in many countries of the world. A potential simultaneous circulation of viral strains of different virulence levels makes it necessary to improve diagnostic and preventive measures in case of ASF suspicion, herewith the lack of specific prophylaxis and treatment means and insufficient knowledge complicate the control of this infection. Currently pursuant to the approved "Veterinary rules of application of preventive, diagnostic, restrictive and other measures, quarantine imposition and removal and other restrictions aimed at prevention of African swine fever spread and outbreak eradication" on a livestock farm or in a backyard, where an ASF outbreak is reported, the quarantine shall be imposed and all pigs shall be destroyed.

In recent years, the veterinary science and practice have built up broad experience in ASF prevention and outbreak eradication, though it is fragmented and requires generalization. This approach was used by the authors of the study guide under review "African Swine Fever" A. S. Igolkin and K. N. Gruzdev, leading ASF specialists.

The work under review consists of 11 sections and 126 pages. ASF epidemiology in Russia and other countries, disease etiology, ASFV genetic peculiarities, virus cultivation, isolate differentiation, its resistance to different chemical and physical factors and other issues are presented clearly in the study guide. The infection sources and transmission routes are analyzed. The modern methods of laboratory diagnosis, pathogenesis, clinical and post mortem signs of the disease as well as ASF prevention and control measures are described. Much attention is paid to ASF primary differential diagnosis, which is especially important for practicing veterinarians.

Materials given in the study guide reflect long-term experience of the authors and staff members of different research institutes. They will be useful for veterinary specialists of different levels in their practice. The study guide is easy to read, it is illustrated with high-quality informative figures and tables. Taking into account a high level of the presented material, the study guide might be recommended for use in educational processes and as an information resource.