

EWDA 2026
Conference
Novi Sad, Serbia
29.IX – 03.X 2026



The Wild Future:
Challenges of Integrating
Health
Welfare
Biodiversity



Book of Abstracts

Hosted by:





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Welcome letter

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to **16th European Wildlife Disease Association Conference - EWDA 2026**, hosted by the Scientific Veterinary Institute "Novi Sad". We are truly delighted to open our doors — and our hearts — to researchers and friends from across Europe and beyond, here in the vibrant city of Novi Sad.

This year's theme, **"The Wild Future: Challenges of Integrating Health, Welfare and Biodiversity"**, reminds us that the well-being of wildlife is inseparable from the well-being of our shared planet. As researchers, we all know how fascinating and complex this field can be — yet, beyond the data and analysis, there is also a shared passion that connects us: the drive to understand, protect, and respect the natural world and its many living systems.

Over the few conference days, we will exchange knowledge, ideas, and experiences, but also — hopefully — form new collaborations and friendships that will continue to grow after the conference ends. The health of wildlife is a challenge that unites us all, crossing borders, species, and disciplines. Together, we can work on the bridge between wildlife, environment, domestic animals, and humans.

On behalf of the organizer, the Scientific Veterinary Institute "Novi Sad," warmly welcomes you to EWDA 2026 Conference, to our city, and our country. Novi Sad is known for its hospitality, history, and heart — and we invite you to experience all of it during your stay.

Welcome to Serbia, welcome to Novi Sad and welcome to 16th European Wildlife Disease Association Conference - EWDA 2026 — where science meets friendship and shared purpose.

With warm regards,

In front of the Organizing Committee of 16th EWDA Conference "EWDA 2026"

Sara Savić, DVM, MSc, PhD, Principal Research Fellow &

Tamaš Petrović, DVM, MSc, PhD, Principal Research Fellow

Director of the Scientific Veterinary Institute "Novi Sad"

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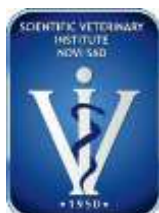
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Novi Sad, Serbia



European Wildlife Disease Association

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Publisher

Scientific Veterinary Institute "Novi Sad"
Novi Sad, Serbia

For the Publisher

Dr. Marko Pajić, DVM, MSc, PhD, Senior Research Fellow, Director

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Technical Editors

Dr. Tamaš Petrović, DVM, MSc, PhD, Principal Research Fellow
Olivera Popović, Congrexpo

Year: 2026

ISBN- 978-86-82871-50-7



EWDA 2026
Conference
Novi Sad, Serbia
29.IX – 03.X 2026



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29.09 – 03.10.2026

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Session 5

Avian influenza, African swine fever & potential pandemics in wildlife

Poster Presentations



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P086. Biosecurity Measures in Wild Boar Hunting Grounds in the Vojvodina Region: From Theory to Practice

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The practical implementation of biosecurity measures has made substantial progress over the past decade in the domestic pig sector. However, when it comes to biosecurity measures in wild boar hunting grounds, major challenges are encountered in bridging the gap between theoretical concepts and what is feasible under practical field conditions.

In the present study, environmental and regional risk factors were considered from an epidemiological perspective in ten wild boar hunting grounds located in the Vojvodina region. According to location and habitat characteristics of the hunting grounds, the possibilities for the practical implementation of both external and internal biosecurity measures under field conditions were descriptively analyzed.

With respect to external biosecurity, the critical risk factors identified in the majority of hunting grounds include the immediate presence of rivers, as well as proximity to main transport routes. The domestic pig population can be viewed at two risk levels, but the most important is the free-range domestic pig population located in nearby forests. The second is the immediate proximity of villages and rural households with domestic pigs surrounding the hunting grounds. Within internal biosecurity, the critical risk factors identified include the possibility of entry by unauthorized persons (illegal hunting, collection of mushrooms, berries, wood by local residents). An additional risk is the safe disposal of inedible offal following the wild boar hunting. A critical environmental factor is the availability of sources of running potable water, which is essential for carcass processing after hunting and for the hygiene measures in general. In all hunting grounds, the entry of transport vehicles (equipment, feed delivery), as well as hunters entry, is strictly controlled. Additionally, in the cases of introduction of new wild boars, quarantine measures are strictly implemented in accordance with Serbian legal regulations.

The practical implementation of biosecurity measures in wild boar hunting grounds is not straightforward under field conditions. Numerous factors related to the local environment and geographical characteristics of the area cannot be realistically controlled. A particular challenge is posed by human activities and settlements, which have dynamically changed over time and are increasingly encroaching upon hunting grounds. The key biosecurity risks identified in our study are human–wild boar interactions, as well as the potential interface between wild boars and the domestic pig population.

Keywords: biosecurity measures, wild boars, hunting grounds, Vojvodina

Funding source & Acknowledgement: This work was funded by Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of Republic of Serbia by the Contract of implementation and funding of research work of NIV-NS in 2026, Contract No: 451-03-33/2026-03/200031.





CIP - Каталогизација у публикацији - Библиотеке Матице српске, Нови Сад

619:616:636(048.3)

ISBN 978-86-82871-50-7

1. Научни институт за ветеринарство „Нови Сад“ Нови Сад)
а) Ветеринарска медицина -- Апстракти

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