

**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 **16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> European Wildlife Disease Association Conference - EWDA 2026 — where science meets friendship and shared purpose.

With warm regards,

### ***In front of the Organizing Committee of 16<sup>th</sup> EWDA Conference "EWDA 2026"***

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

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

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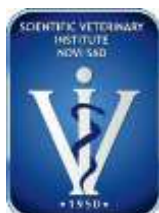
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Health  
Welfare  
Biodiversity





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Novi Sad, Serbia



**European Wildlife Disease Association**

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## *Session 5*

# **Avian influenza, African swine fever & potential pandemics in wildlife**

## *Poster Presentations*

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## **P084. African Swine Fever Virus Transmission Dynamics and Population Impact in an Enclosed Wild Boar Hunting ground: A Serbian Case Study**

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African swine fever (ASF) represents one of the most important viral diseases of wild boars with strong influence in hunting management. In Serbia, ASF virus was detected for the first time in the wild boar population in 2020 and since then the virus has been confirmed in more than 90 hunting grounds. The aim of the work was to present the transmission dynamics of ASF virus in the fenced hunting ground located in Vojvodina region.

The studied hunting ground is a lowland-type hunting area, with a total fenced area of 2,281.00 ha. The epidemiological investigation was conducted in the 2023-2026 period i.e. in two consecutive hunting seasons. After the first detection of ASF the epidemiological data included the analysis of wild boar population positive samples structure according to the age and sex. The samples for laboratory diagnostic included the long bones or/and blood swabs. The data collected in the frame of passive surveillance were systematically presented through the more than three years period and analysed according to the season.

After the first detection of ASF virus in the hunting ground during the 2023- 2024 hunting season, a total of 84 wild boar carcasses were found, of which 95% tested ASF positive (molecular diagnostics, real-time PCR). In the first year, the highest number of positive results was detected in the period from September to November. During the next 2025–2026 hunting season, only a total of 9 wild boar carcasses were found, all of which tested ASF positive. With regard to age category in the 2023–2024 hunting season, adult categories older than 3 years predominated (58.75%). In terms of sex, ASF-positive wild boars were more frequently males (61.25%) compared to females (38.75%). In contrast, in the 2025–2026 hunting season, the virus was predominantly detected in samples originating from sub-adult (growing) individuals (88.9%), while in terms of sex, females predominated (66.7%) among ASF-positive cases.

The obtained results indicate that, after its introduction into a fenced hunting ground, the virus exhibits a characteristic target population dynamic, with the highest mortality in the first year occurring among adults. The second hunting season showed a lower mortality rate, predominantly affecting younger categories. The source of infection remains an open question. Considering the large number of ASF outbreaks in the domestic pig population in villages surrounding the hunting ground, the anthropogenic factor cannot be excluded.

**Keywords:** wild boars, ASF, enclosed hunting ground, Serbia

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