



# Philippine College of Swine Practitioners

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7 October 2019

**TO:** DR. RONNIE DOMINGO  
OIC Director, Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture

**FROM:** Philippine College of Swine Practitioners (PCSP)  
Affiliate of the Philippine Veterinary Medical Association, PVMA

**SUBJECT:** Position Paper on African Swine Fever Diagnosis: Supervised Blood Collection,  
Diagnostic Laboratory Capacities and Mandatory Audits for Meat Establishments



Director of Bureau of Animal Industry  
RECEIVED  
Date: 10/8/19  
By: Cani  
Office of the Director

The current situation with African Swine Fever (ASF) affecting several municipalities in Bulacan, Pampanga and Pangasinan require stricter regulatory measures to prevent the spread, including quarantine and surveillance. Blood and organ sampling are essential to detect the presence of PCR positive cases of ASF to allow for pre-emptive culling and control the disease spread.

There are three main issues where we would like to submit our position:

1. Supervised Blood Collection for ASF Testing in Farms Located in Quarantine and Surveillance Zones
2. DA-BAI and ASF Diagnostic Laboratory Capacities
3. Mandatory Audits of Slaughterhouses and Meat Processing Plants

The DA-BAI's requirement for a PCR negative test result from farms needing the Issuance of Shipping Permits are necessary. This is in accordance with ensuring that we only harvest apparently healthy and ASF negative pigs. However, the PCSP would like to submit our position on the first two issues pertaining to this:

## 1. Supervised Blood Collection for ASF Testing in Farms Located in Quarantine and Surveillance Zones

The DA-BAI's requirement for SUPERVISED blood collection runs counter to established farm biosecurity protocols.

The PCSP propose the following:

- Waive the practice of DA/ BAI personnel to witness the sample blood collection.
- The DA/ BAI Personnel will wait at gates and allow internal farm personnel to collect the blood samples.
- The licensed farm veterinarian/consultant will attest to the correctness of sampling. The PCSP will be willing to assist farmers in this regard.



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## 2. DA-BAI and ASF Diagnostic Laboratory Capacities

Several farmers have raised their concerns on receiving their test results after 3 days of submission. This shortens the validity of their Shipping Permits that are valid for only 7 days from date of submission.

The PCSP recognizes and recommends the following:

- DA-BAI, through the Veterinary Laboratory Division – Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (VLD-ADDL) recognize and accredit private diagnostic laboratories capable of performing the ASF PCR test to be utilized for ASF diagnostics.
- DA-BAI hastens the improvement of capabilities in the RADDLs, but in the interim – recognize the ASF PCR tests of BAI accredited private laboratories to avoid backlog of test result release and hasten the flow of commerce by allowing farmer to enjoy their 7 days validity of Shipping Permits.

In addition, the swine stakeholders have reported possible slaughter of ASF infected pigs and likewise prevent entry of illegally imported pork. We know that this is under the jurisdiction of the NMIS (a separate position paper will be sent to them), but we also recognize the authority of BAI over diagnostic laboratories who will perform ASF PCR test on meat samples. The PCSP would like to submit our position on the third issue:

## 3. Mandatory Audits of Slaughterhouses and Meat Processing Plants

The mandatory audit of abattoirs & meat processing plants as part of the strategic program for border control.

The PCSP proposes the following:

- Coordination between the DA (as the authority over BAI and NMIS) and the swine industry stakeholders (PCSP for the private veterinarians, swine farmers, owners of abattoirs, importers and other concerned groups) to set the audit protocol, collection & handling of meat samples and agree on sanctions for violators.
- Assignment of diagnostic laboratory to handle the bulk of testing and the manner of reporting the results.

Signed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019 by:

**DR. ZOILO LAPUS**  
President

**DR. TOMAS ACORDA**  
Chairman, Specialty Board