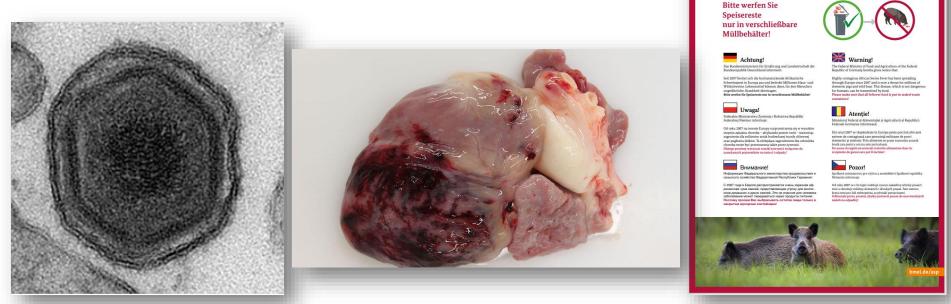


für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft

Achtung: Afrikanische Schweinepest!

Fighting the African Swine Fever (ASF) in Saxony – Trapping of wild boars in the Saxon State Forest

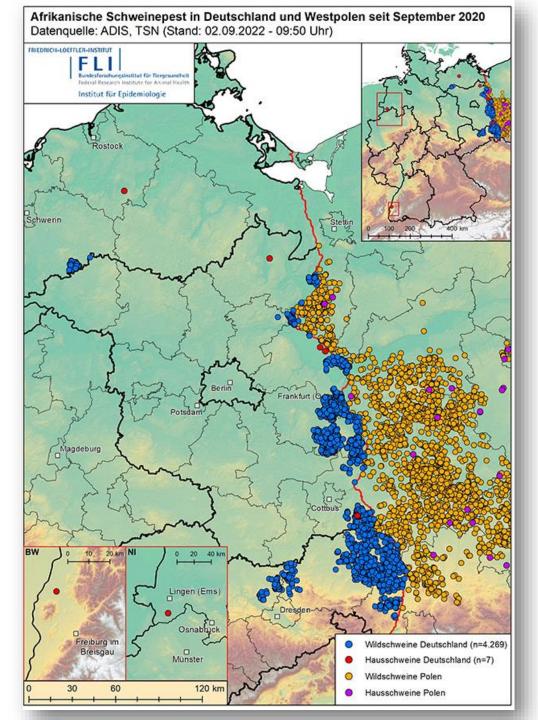
Marco Horn – Desk Officer ASF Coordination





- 1. ASF situation in Germany / Saxony
- 2. role of the State Forest in fighting the ASF
- 3. basics of the fighting strategy
- 4. trapping wild boars / types of traps used
- 5. experiences / findings





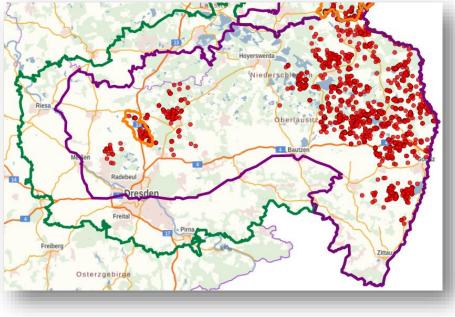
situation in Germany

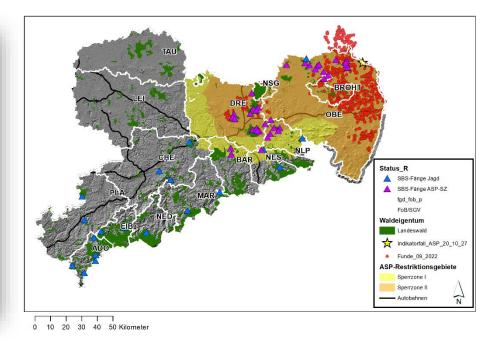
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situation in Saxony

- first detection of the ASF virus in Saxony on October 27, 2020, more than 1.600 infected wild boars were found until today
- I in 2022, Saxony has so far recorded the most intensive ASF infection rates in Germany







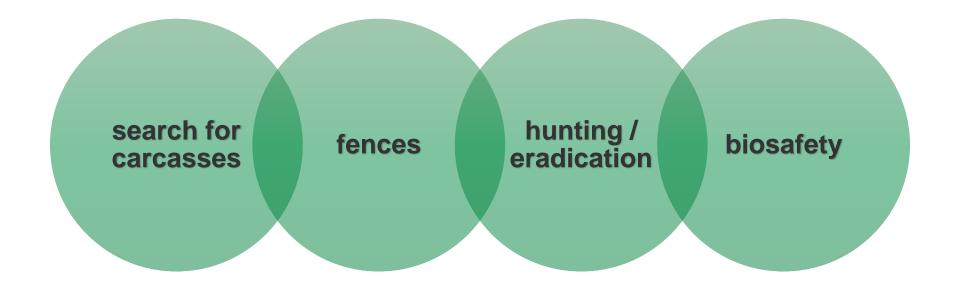
role of the State Forest

- I main responsibility: veterinary authorities, especially Saxon State Ministry For Social Affairs And Cohesion
- State Forest -> same role as other hunters:
 - ordered to intensify the hunt on wild boars, search for and report carcasses, collect blood samples
 - but: State Forest should act as an good/ideal example
 - in total responsibility for more than 200.000 ha hunting ground
 - roughly a quarter (over 45,000 ha) of the Saxon State Forest property now lays within the designated ASF restriction areas



basics of the fighting strategy

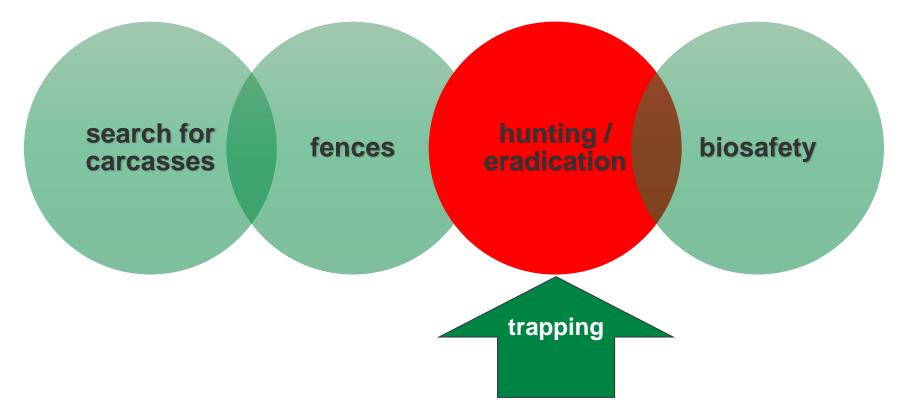
4 pillars:





basics of the fighting strategy

4 pillars:





- basic principle:
 - 1. (pre-)baiting
 - 2. wild boars enter the trap
 - 3. monitoring trap
 - 4. close remote triggered gate
 - 5. humane killing / euthanasia

we are fighting the virus (i.e. the further spread of the virus), not the wild boars



- smaller traps:
 - cages
 - portable
 - stable
 - l limited size





- bigger traps:
 - corrals
 - stable
 - no roof
 - different sizes
 - stationary





- bigger traps:
 - corrals
 - stable
 - no roof
 - different sizes
 - stationary





- bigger traps:
 - I net trap ("Pig Brig Trap")
 - l lightweight
 - easy to set up
 - flexible
 - no roof
 - durability?
 - no active trigger











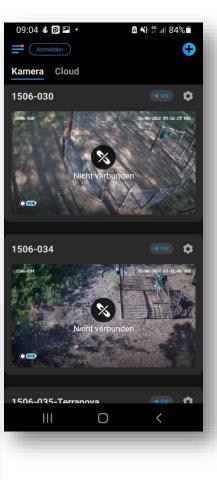
I monitoring the traps by live-view cameras with night-vision



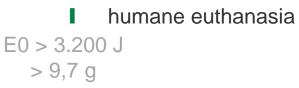
I trigger by calling

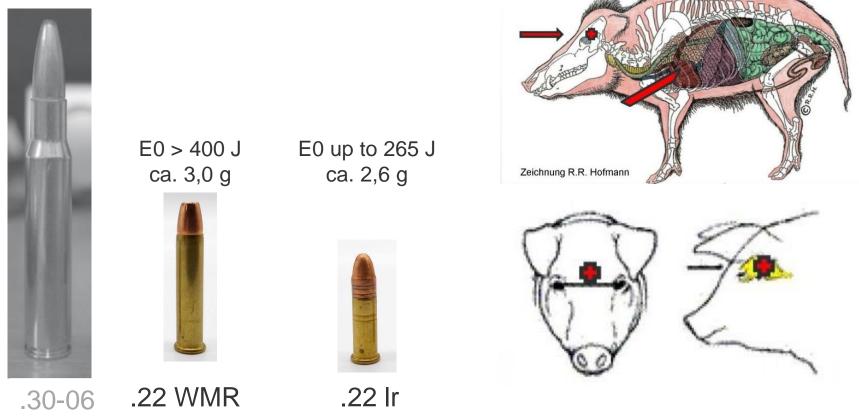












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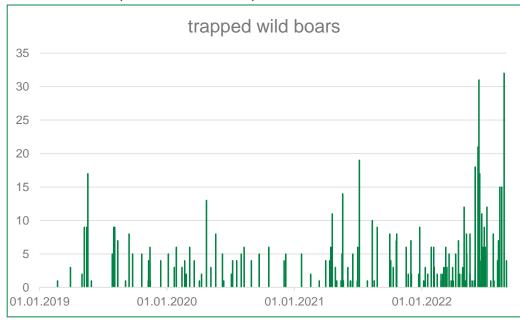


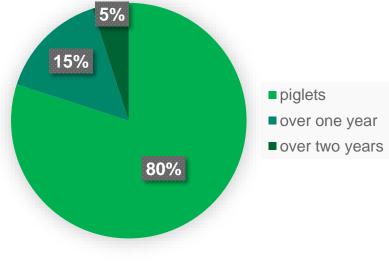




experiences / findings

- I in total 745 wild boars were trapped and killed in the Saxon State Forest since 2019 (332 in ASF-restricted areas)
- **368** male / 377 female
- average trap event: 5.3 wild boars (maximum: 32)





type	n	average	over one year (%)
cage	555	4.8	19,6
corral	98	10.9	28,6
net	92	6.1	18,5

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experiences / findings

- takeaways:
 - I traps are an important und **very effective** part of density reduction, but can't solve the ASF problem alone
 - I creates only relatively small disturbance, therefore especially useful for protected areas
 - I traps leave no "witnesses" behind, **no learning effect**
 - no search for wounded wild boars, no risk for humans / dogs
 - shooting in the head leaves the meat / venison unharmed



experiences / findings

- *takeaways*:
 - success depends on the motivation, the will and patience of the trapper, no one should be forced
 - I the **mental constitution** and the ability to keep calm and patient in a stressful situation are important (*if the trapper acts stressed, the wild boars are stressed*)
 - I little to no sympathy in the average society and by a part of the hunters
 - I requires investments in traps and equipment
 - I traps need the right place and habitat structure, they forbid other hunting activity around -> potential for conflicts







