

Supplementary information for:

Evaluation of the Presence of ASFV in Wolf Feces Collected From Areas in Poland With ASFV Persistence

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Supplementary Methods

Preparation of PCR-positive control and PCR optimization

A 315 bp DNA fragment (sequence below) corresponding to base pairs 1542-1857 of the ASFV VP72 gene was commercially synthesized by Life Technologies. It contained introduced BamHI restriction sites (red) that flanked the 257 bp region (bolded) amplified by PPA-1/PPA-2 primers (Aguero et al. 2003)

5'-GCTGCCCATGG**GGATCCT**CTGGGACGTGCCCTGAATCGGAGCATCTT-GCCAG-GATGAATGACATGCACCCAATATATGATGGCCACCATATCATGGAAAAAGTCTCCGTACTGGGGAATACCAAAGGTAAGCTTGTTCCTCAAGGTGGGGGTACCCG-TATGCGGGCG-TACTTTATTGTATTCAAACCCTACTGGAACATAAGGCTTAAAATGCGCATTAATAATGACCAAATGTGTTTCTTCGATTTGACTCAAAGTGGGTTCGG-GATCGGGTTTCCCATAACTTTGTTCACAT**GGATCCT**GTTAGAGATCCT-3'

The synthesized fragment was cloned to pJET1.2/blunt vector (ThermoScientific) using T4 DNA ligase (ThermoScientific) and subsequently transformed into *E. coli* TOP10 cells. Transformed bacteria were selected on LB-agar plates supplemented with ampicillin. Single colonies were picked and cultured overnight in LB medium with ampicillin. Next, plasmid DNA was isolated using the Plasmid mini kit (A&A Biotechnology). To confirm the presence of insert, we checked isolated plasmids by BamHI digestion followed by agarose electrophoresis.

Prepared DNA construct was used to optimize PCR conditions and served as a positive control. Plasmid DNA (100 ng/μL) was serially diluted in 10⁻¹ – 10⁻¹⁰ range and used as a template in PCR reaction with PPA-1/PPA-2 primers (Aguero et al. 2003, see main text). We tested the effect of number of PCR cycles on PCR specificity. For 40 cycles, we observed a PCR product of predicted size (257 bp) up to 10⁻⁷ dilution, but for 10⁻⁶ and 10⁻⁷ dilutions, some unspecific products were also detected. Thus, we selected 35 as an optimal number of cycles, as in these conditions, we observed clear single bands at 257 bp up to 10⁻⁵ template dilution, and unspecific products were not present at any dilution. In subsequent PCR experiments, we used 0.01 ng/μL plasmid DNA (i.e., 10⁻⁴ template dilution) as a PCR-positive control.

Isolation control experiment

E. coli TOP10 cells carrying plasmid containing fragment of ASFV VP72 gene were cultured overnight in LB medium supplemented with ampicillin and serially diluted (10⁻¹ – 10⁻¹⁰)

$2, 10^{-4}, 10^{-6}$) in medium. A fresh wolf scat (not preserved in ethanol) was divided into eight equal pieces ($\approx 1 \times 2$ cm) and 50 μ L of cell suspended in medium (undiluted or of indicated dilution) was added to each piece (two replicates per dilution). Samples were then incubated for 24 or 72 h in atmospheric conditions (temperature range ≈ 10 – 20 $^{\circ}$ C, no precipitation during first 24 h, but light rain between 24 and 72 h time points), followed by DNA isolation and PCR (as described in the main text).

Supplementary Tables

Table S1. List of analyzed wolf fecal samples.

| scat_ID | individual | sample collection date | country | region | forest district | ASF zone | longitude | latitude | collected by | prey item | figure | lane number |
|---------|------------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|------------------------------------|-----------|---------|-------------|
| ROZ228 | M1 | 2021-03-16 | Poland | Roztocze National Park | Zwierzyniec | yes | 23.1055 | 50.5519 | S. Nowak, R. Mysłajek, P. Stachyra | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 9 |
| ROZ229 | M1 | 2021-03-25 | Poland | Roztocze National Park | Roztocze National Park | yes | 23.0406 | 50.6445 | S. Nowak, R. Mysłajek, P. Stachyra | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 10 |
| ROZ230 | M1 | 2021-01-16 | Poland | Roztocze National Park | Roztocze National Park | yes | 23.1514 | 50.5246 | S. Nowak, R. Mysłajek, P. Stachyra | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 11 |
| ROZ231 | M1 | 2021-02-21 | Poland | Roztocze National Park | Roztocze National Park | yes | 23.0612 | 50.6373 | S. Nowak, R. Mysłajek, P. Stachyra | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 12 |
| ROZ232 | M1 | 2021-02-21 | Poland | Roztocze National Park | Roztocze National Park | yes | 23.0612 | 50.6353 | S. Nowak, R. Mysłajek, P. Stachyra | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 13 |
| ROZ233 | M1 | 2021-04-27 | Poland | Roztocze National Park | Roztocze National Park | yes | 23.0611 | 50.6359 | S. Nowak, R. Mysłajek, P. Stachyra | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 14 |
| PP29 | | 2020-04-19 | Poland | Pisz Forest | Nowogród | yes | 21.6405 | 53.3293 | M. Szewczyk | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 1 |
| PP35 | M2 | 2021-01-11 | Poland | Pisz Forest | Giżycko | yes | 21.8590 | 53.8578 | K. Kurek | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 2 |
| PP38 | M2 | 2021-01-11 | Poland | Pisz Forest | Giżycko | yes | 21.8184 | 53.8481 | K. Kurek | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 3 |
| PP60 | M2 | 2021-02-11 | Poland | Pisz Forest | Giżycko | yes | 21.7703 | 53.8483 | K. Kurek | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 4 |
| PP61 | M2 | 2021-02-14 | Poland | Pisz Forest | Giżycko | yes | 21.7596 | 53.8276 | K. Kurek | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 5 |
| PP63 | M2 | 2021-02-14 | Poland | Pisz Forest | Giżycko | yes | 21.7532 | 53.8419 | K. Kurek | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 6 |
| PP64 | M2 | 2021-02-17 | Poland | Pisz Forest | Giżycko | yes | 21.7520 | 53.8411 | K. Kurek | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 7 |
| PP65 | M2 | 2021-02-14 | Poland | Pisz Forest | Giżycko | yes | 21.7652 | 53.8308 | K. Kurek | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 8 |
| LGRA04 | | 2019-12-21 | Poland | Bielsk Plain | Bielsk | yes | 23.0679 | 52.8729 | M. Szewczyk | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 15 |
| LGRA06 | | 2019-12-21 | Poland | Bielsk Plain | Bielsk | yes | 23.0172 | 52.7942 | M. Szewczyk | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 16 |
| LGRA08 | | 2019-12-29 | Poland | Bielsk Plain | Bielsk | yes | 23.0894 | 52.8737 | M. Szewczyk | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 17 |
| PML02 | | 2019-12-23 | Poland | Mielnik Forest | Nurzec | yes | 23.1361 | 52.3299 | M. Szewczyk | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 18 |
| PML04 | | 2019-12-23 | Poland | Mielnik Forest | Nurzec | yes | 23.1967 | 52.3720 | M. Szewczyk | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 19 |
| PML05 | | 2019-12-25 | Poland | Mielnik Forest | Nurzec | yes | 23.1189 | 52.6168 | N. Niedźwiecka | wild boar | Fig. 2 | 20 |
| BIA013 | | 2018-07-15 | Poland | Biała Forest | Sokołów | yes | 22.3102 | 52.6314 | M. Szewczyk | n/a | Fig. S2 | 1 |
| BIA015 | | 2019-05-26 | Poland | Biała Forest | Ostrów Mazowiecka | yes | 21.7512 | 52.7137 | Barbara Czuba | n/a | Fig. S2 | 2 |
| BIA016 | | 2019-05-26 | Poland | Biała Forest | Ostrów Mazowiecka | yes | 21.7431 | 52.7134 | Barbara Czuba | n/a | Fig. S2 | 3 |
| BIA017 | | 2019-12-05 | Poland | Biała Forest | Wyszków | yes | 21.5102 | 52.6862 | A. Haldt | n/a | Fig. S2 | 4 |
| BP111 | | 2018-03-30 | Poland | Biebrza River Valley | Biebrza National Park | yes | 22.5623 | 53.3717 | M. Szewczyk | n/a | Fig. S2 | 5 |
| BP119 | | 2018-02-13 | Poland | Biebrza River Valley | Biebrza National Park | yes | 22.7748 | 53.5880 | K. Henel | n/a | Fig. S2 | 6 |
| BP123 | | 2018-03-21 | Poland | Biebrza River Valley | Biebrza National Park | yes | 22.7622 | 53.6061 | H. Ohwarińska | n/a | Fig. S2 | 7 |
| LGRA05 | | 2019-12-21 | Poland | Bielsk Plain | Bielsk | yes | 23.0889 | 52.8737 | M. Szewczyk | n/a | Fig. S2 | 15 |
| LGRA07 | | 2019-12-25 | Poland | Bielsk Plain | Bielsk | yes | 23.0321 | 52.7845 | N. Niedźwiecka, M. Szewczyk | n/a | Fig. S2 | 16 |
| LNR136 | | 2018-12-31 | Poland | Napiwoda-Ramuki Fores | Przasnysz | yes | 20.7124 | 53.2733 | K. Stępiak | n/a | Fig. S2 | 28 |
| LNR144 | | 2019-02-17 | Poland | Napiwoda-Ramuki Fores | Jedwabno | yes | 20.6842 | 53.4377 | K. Stępiak | n/a | Fig. S2 | 29 |
| LNR146 | | 2019-02-17 | Poland | Napiwoda-Ramuki Fores | Jedwabno | yes | 20.7224 | 53.4823 | K. Stępiak | n/a | Fig. S2 | 30 |
| LNR152 | | 2019-02-17 | Poland | Napiwoda-Ramuki Fores | Jedwabno | yes | 20.7069 | 53.4367 | K. Stępiak | n/a | Fig. S2 | 31 |
| LNR161 | | 2019-03-10 | Poland | Napiwoda-Ramuki Fores | Jedwabno | yes | 20.7708 | 53.4635 | K. Stępiak | n/a | Fig. S2 | 32 |
| LS10 | | 2018-12-08 | Poland | Spała Forest | Grójec | yes | 20.6532 | 51.5905 | I. Kwiatkowska | n/a | Fig. S2 | 8 |
| PBI16 | | 2018-03-10 | Poland | Białowieża Forest | Białowieża National Park | yes | 23.7167 | 52.6315 | K. Stępiak | n/a | Fig. S2 | 13 |
| PBI21 | | 2018-03-10 | Poland | Białowieża Forest | Białowieża National Park | yes | 23.3390 | 52.5960 | M. Szewczyk | n/a | Fig. S2 | 14 |
| PK041 | | 2018-12-27 | Poland | Kampinos National Park | Kampinos National Park | yes | 20.4422 | 52.3522 | K. Stępiak, I. Kwiatkowska | n/a | Fig. S2 | 11 |
| PK055 | | 2019-02-14 | Poland | Kampinos National Park | Kampinos National Park | yes | 20.4328 | 52.3456 | K. Stępiak | n/a | Fig. S2 | 12 |
| PML03 | | 2019-12-23 | Poland | Mielnik Forest | Nurzec | yes | 23.1971 | 52.3719 | M. Szewczyk | n/a | Fig. S2 | 9 |
| PML07 | | 2019-12-29 | Poland | Mielnik Forest | Nurzec | yes | 23.1363 | 52.6109 | M. Szewczyk | n/a | Fig. S2 | 10 |
| PO105 | | 2018-05-18 | Poland | Polesie National Park | Parczew | yes | 22.9600 | 51.5443 | M. Kołodziejczyk | n/a | Fig. S2 | 26 |
| PO120 | | 2019-03-25 | Poland | Polesie National Park | Polesie National Park | yes | 23.2539 | 51.4652 | Włoszewicz | n/a | Fig. S2 | 27 |
| ROZ105 | | 2019-03-10 | Poland | Roztocze National Park | PN Roztoczański | yes | 23.0612 | 50.6329 | R. Mysłajek | n/a | Fig. S2 | 17 |
| ROZ136 | | 2020-01-14 | Poland | Roztocze National Park | Zwierzyniec | yes | 22.8402 | 50.5987 | S. Nowak, R. Mysłajek | n/a | Fig. S2 | 18 |
| ROZ137 | | 2020-01-14 | Poland | Roztocze National Park | Zwierzyniec | yes | 22.8403 | 50.5987 | S. Nowak, R. Mysłajek | n/a | Fig. S2 | 19 |
| ROZ153 | | 2020-01-24 | Poland | Roztocze National Park | PN Roztoczański | yes | 23.0542 | 50.6105 | R. Mysłajek, S. Nowak, M. Szewczyk | n/a | Fig. S2 | 20 |
| SL037 | | 2019-03-05 | Poland | Solska Forest | Zwierzyniec | yes | 22.8358 | 50.6035 | R. Mysłajek, S. Nowak, P. Stachyra | n/a | Fig. S2 | 21 |
| SL042 | | 2019-02-14 | Poland | Solska Forest | Zwierzyniec | yes | 22.9359 | 50.5306 | R. Mysłajek, S. Nowak, P. Stachyra | n/a | Fig. S2 | 22 |
| SL046 | | 2019-02-15 | Poland | Solska Forest | Zwierzyniec | yes | 23.0698 | 50.6841 | R. Mysłajek, S. Nowak | n/a | Fig. S2 | 23 |
| SL047 | | 2019-03-02 | Poland | Solska Forest | Józefów | yes | 23.0585 | 50.3970 | R. Mysłajek, S. Nowak, P. Stachyra | n/a | Fig. S2 | 24 |
| SL060 | | 2020-01-23 | Poland | Solska Forest | Błogoraj | yes | 22.7606 | 50.5767 | M. Szewczyk | n/a | Fig. S2 | 25 |
| BD569 | | 2018-03-10 | Poland | Lower Silesian Forest | Przemków | no | 15.7138 | 51.4593 | R. Mysłajek, S. Nowak | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| BT318 | | 2019-04-22 | Poland | Tuchola Forest | Dąbrowa | no | 18.5173 | 53.5982 | M. Szewczyk | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| BT323 | | 2019-04-28 | Poland | Tuchola Forest | Dąbrowa | no | 18.5434 | 53.5390 | M. Szewczyk | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| BT332 | | 2019-07-20 | Poland | Tuchola Forest | Tuchola | no | 18.0361 | 53.6477 | M. Szewczyk | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| PN148 | | 2018-08-20 | Poland | Noteć Forest | Oborniki | no | 16.7137 | 52.7266 | R. Mysłajek, S. Nowak, P. Tomczak | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| PN155 | | 2018-07-22 | Poland | Noteć Forest | Karwin | no | 15.7471 | 52.7944 | P. Tomczak | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| PN166 | | 2019-02-24 | Poland | Noteć Forest | Sierakowice | no | 16.1378 | 52.7316 | Kasprzak | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| BD575 | | 2018-03-11 | Poland | Lower Silesian Forest | Świętoszów | no | 15.5190 | 51.4964 | R. Mysłajek, S. Nowak | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| BD577 | | 2018-03-10 | Poland | Lower Silesian Forest | Przemków | no | 15.7157 | 51.4559 | R. Mysłajek, S. Nowak | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| PB085 | | 2019-02-09 | Poland | Bydgoszcz Forest | Szubin | no | 17.4401 | 53.0469 | J. Napierała | n/a | n/a | n/a |

Table S2. List of analyzed wild boar tissue samples.

| tissue_ID | species | individual | country | region | sample collection date | approximate time of death | longitude | latitude | collected by | figure | lane number | ASF detected |
|-----------|------------|------------|---------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|----------|------------------------------------|--------|-------------|--------------|
| Dz01 | Sus scrofa | | Poland | Roztocze National Park | 16.03.2021 | | 23.1219 | 50.5536 | P. Stachyra, S. Nowak, R. Mysłajek | Fig. 2 | 21 | yes |
| Dz02 | Sus scrofa | | Poland | Roztocze National Park | 16.03.2021 | | 23.1215 | 50.5537 | P. Stachyra, S. Nowak, R. Mysłajek | Fig. 2 | 22 | no |
| Dz03 | Sus scrofa | | Poland | Roztocze National Park | 25.03.2021 | | 23.0444 | 50.6392 | P. Stachyra, S. Nowak, R. Mysłajek | Fig. 2 | 23 | yes |
| Dz04 | Sus scrofa | | Poland | Roztocze National Park | 25.03.2021 | | 23.0443 | 50.6390 | P. Stachyra, S. Nowak, R. Mysłajek | Fig. 2 | 24 | yes |
| Dz05 | Sus scrofa | | Poland | Roztocze National Park | 25.03.2021 | | 23.0437 | 50.6361 | P. Stachyra, S. Nowak, R. Mysłajek | Fig. 2 | 25 | yes |
| Dz06 | Sus scrofa | ad male | Poland | Pisz Forest | 28.03.2021 | \approx 01.02.2021 | 21.7696 | 53.8484 | K. Kurek | Fig. 2 | 26 | yes |
| Dz07 | Sus scrofa | ad | Poland | Pisz Forest | 28.03.2021 | 26.03.2021 | 21.7616 | 53.8441 | K. Kurek | Fig. 2 | 27 | yes |
| Dz08 | Sus scrofa | juv/subad | Poland | Pisz Forest | 28.03.2021 | 27.03.2021 | 21.7591 | 53.8377 | K. Kurek | Fig. 2 | 28 | yes |
| Dz09 | Sus scrofa | juv/subad | Poland | Pisz Forest | 28.03.2021 | 27.03.2021 | 21.7592 | 53.8376 | K. Kurek | Fig. 2 | 29 | yes |

Supplementary Figures

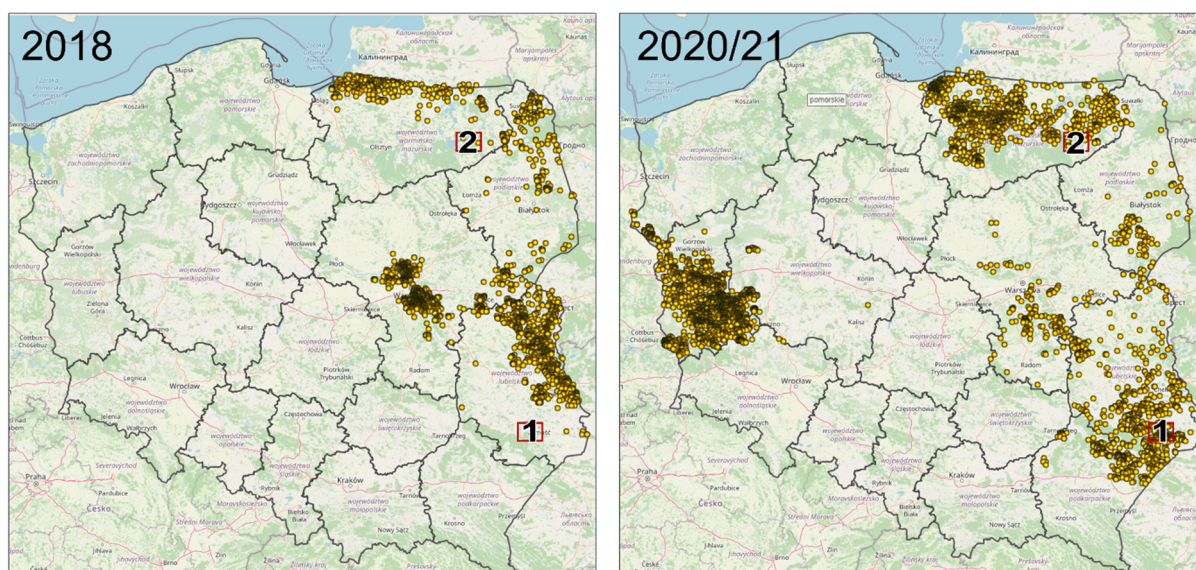


Figure S1. ASF occurrence among wild boar population in Poland at the beginning (2018) and end (2021) of our study. Areas where samples were collected during telemetric studies on wolves are indicated with red rectangles (1—wolf M1, 2—wolf M2). Source: National Veterinary Research Institute, Puławy, Poland (<https://bip.wetgiw.gov.pl/asf/mapa/>).

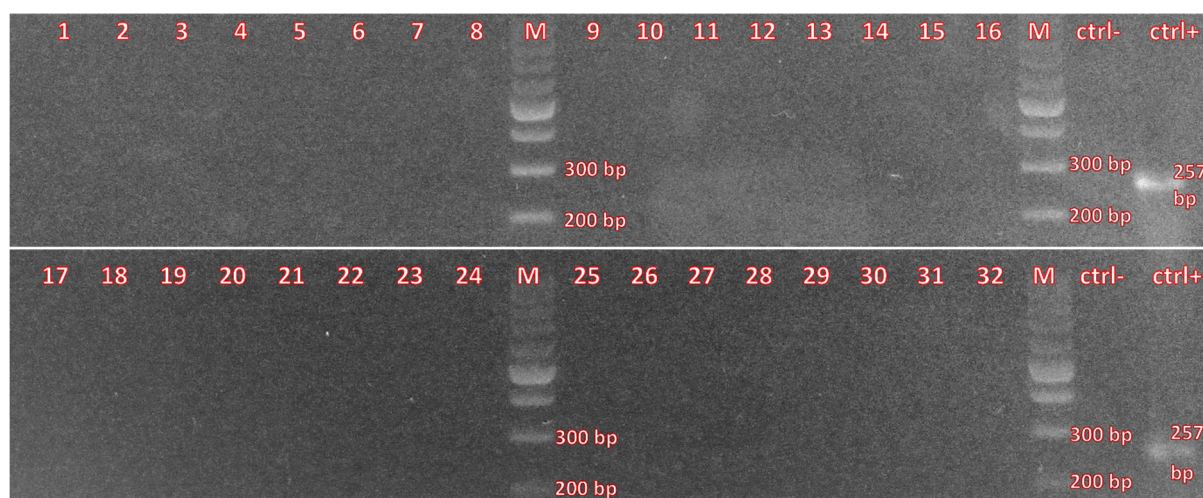


Figure S2. ASFV genetic material was not detected in 32 eastern Polish wolf fecal samples collected in 2018–2019. Ctrl- represents PCR-negative control (elution buffer from DNeasy PowerFaecal Pro Kit used as template), ctrl+ represents PCR-positive control (plasmid DNA containing the amplified fragment of ASFV VP72 gene used as template). For lane numbers and detailed information on samples, see Table S1.

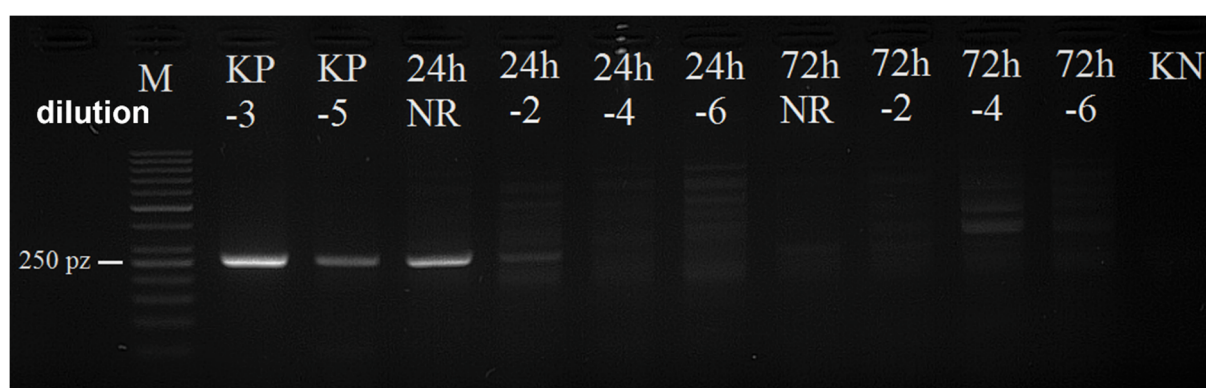


Figure S3. Isolation control experiment shows that amplified fragment of ASFV genetic material could be isolated from fecal samples. For details, see the Supplementary Methods. KP—positive control, KN—negative control, NR—undiluted; numbers indicate template dilution ($-3-10^{-3}$, $-5-10^{-5}$, etc.).

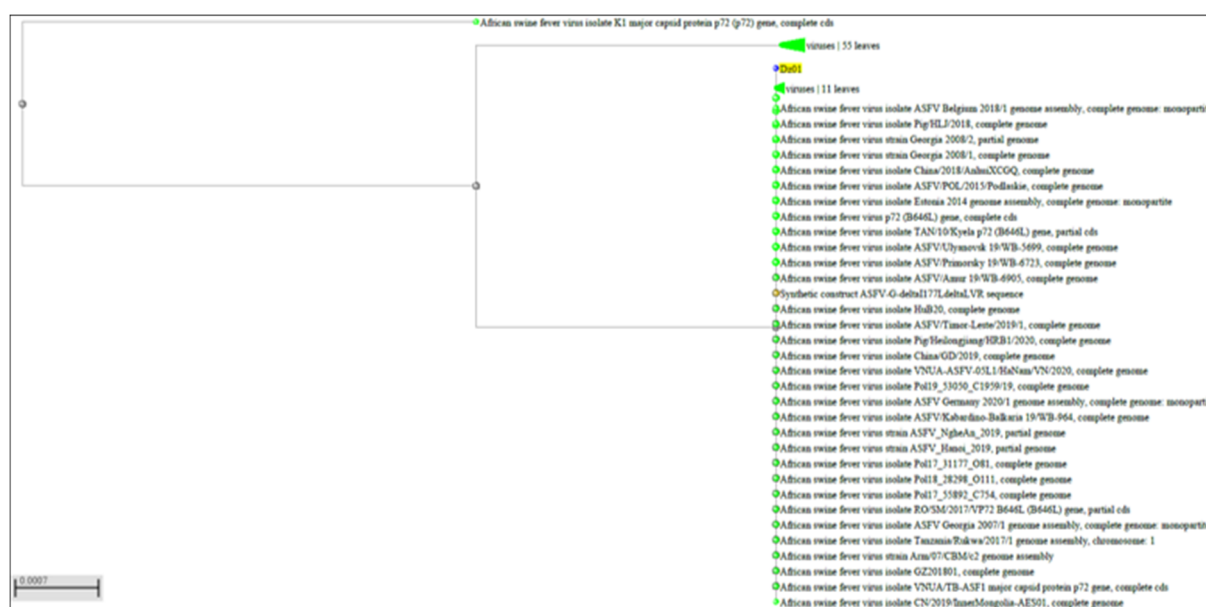


Figure S4. Phylogenetic relationship between sequence from ASFV-positive wild boar tissue samples and nearest hits from the NCBI database. PCR products from all 8 positive samples had the same sequence, so only one sample (Dz01) is shown in the phylogenetic tree. Sequences on the same branch have 100% identity.