

**Free of charge *Trichinella* analyses for wild boar
meat - Estonian lessons on African swine fever
control measures**

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LABRIS

LABRIS only official control laboratory for *Trichinella* in game animals

Three locations: Tartu, Tallinn, Saaremaa

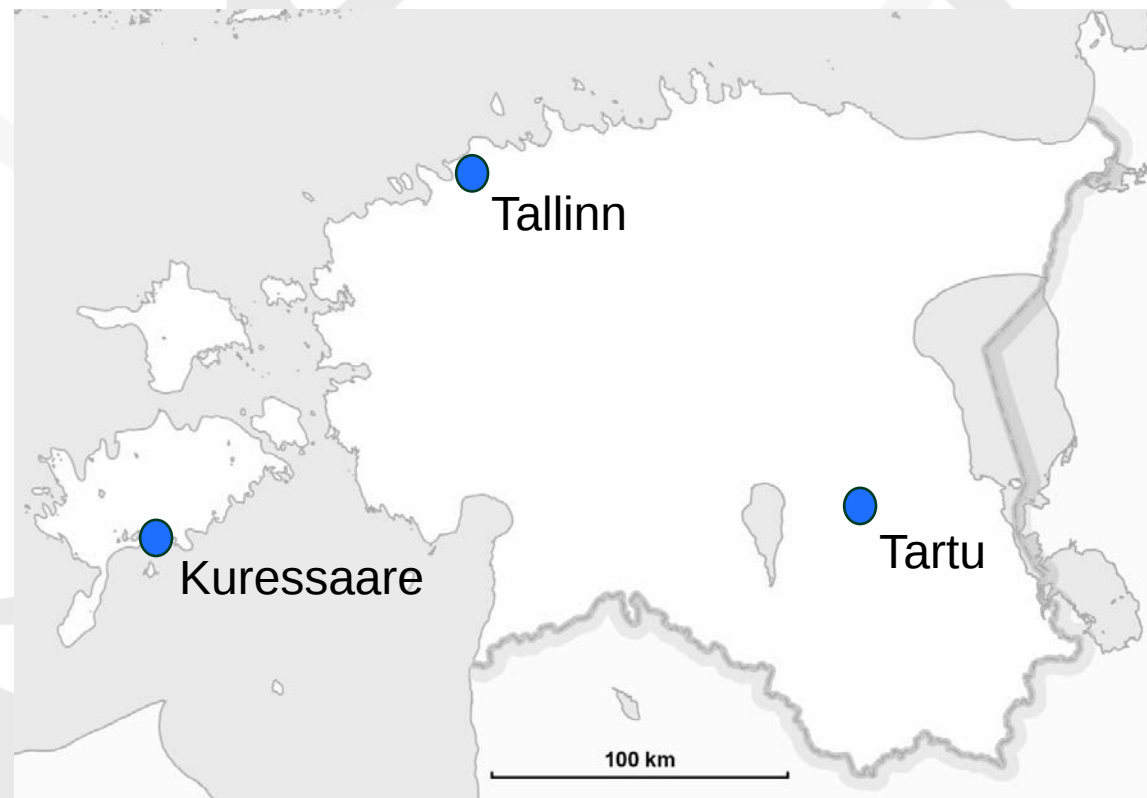
Trichinella analyses: one technician and one specialist involved

In 2024:

In total 2631 *Trichinella* spp. analyses, of which

1 699 *Trichinella* spp. analyses for 4667 wild boar samples

Around 15 500 hunted wild boars



Background

Wild boar population increase since the last African swine fever outbreak in 2014-2017

Increase of ASF in wild boars since 2023

Outbreaks in 11 pig farms starting from June 2025

To control the outbreak:

Governmental support for hunters and meat handlers for *Trichinella spp.* analyses starting from September, 15

Hunting suggestion for 2025 season: 18 000 wild boars;

+ additional 2 000 wild boars from September 2025 to February 2026

Challenge - prepare the laboratories within 2 weeks

Theme	Question	Current situation	Changes?	comments
Samples	How are samples divided?	More samples in mainland (Tartu, Tallinn)	No	most animals hunted in islands but analysed in mainland.
	Can we expect changes?	Small number of analyses/ animals	Yes	? 5000+ samples within few months
Employees	do we need additional workers?	Qualified persons present in all location	Yes	Ready for trainings
Equipment	What is the situation, need for additional?	Equipment in all labs	Yes	Need for additional equipment in all locations
Rooms	Do we need additional space?	Small labs in all locations	Yes	Using other rooms in Tallinn/Tartu

Main problems:

- no prognose for the number of samples
- expected timeframe too tight

Reality:

- maximum number of samples per day 20-23 in Tartu, smaller in other labs
 - „hot season“ starts with December
- there is time for preparations!

Fast solution:

- changes in workflow:
samples from different clients are pooled (50/100g) min 10 g each

Samples from different clients are collected and pooled

Pooling helps to control time and workload

one or two positive findings in pooled samples could bring queues

The number of samples is higher than previous years:

Wild boar samples in third quarter (July-September)

Year	analyses	wild boars
2023	322	831
2024	409	1372
2025	789	2227

But... For finding positive cases, sample size seems to matter

Free of charge analyses

- „Free of charge“ brings more samples
- For increasing the capacity of laboratories
 - Pooling is allowed and fast solution
 - *Trichinella* positive pools brings stress and queues
 - Training new workers continues, takes time
- The number of *Trichinella* positive wild boars will probably decrease
 - Intensive *Trichinella* infections will be found
 - Do we have to concern about low infection?
 - Not detecting low infection has been problem with brown bear meat

Help needed!

extensive number of adult *Lipoptena cervi*

No other parasites in skin, hair; *Staphylococcus aureus* isolated

only superficial skin injury with no visual scratches in red area

hairless area surrounded by dense sebaceous secrete

Only during warm and moist period





Thank you!