



FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE - IDENTIFYING AND RESPONDING TO FMD

WHAT IS FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE?

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is an acute, highly contagious viral disease of domestic and wild cloven-hoofed animals including cattle, swine, sheep and goats.

ABOUT THE DISEASE

FMD can cause serious production losses and is a major constraint to international trade in livestock and livestock products.

In a susceptible, non-vaccinated population, morbidity (the number of animals that will get the disease) could be as high as 100%.

The disease is rarely fatal in adult animals, but mortality can be high in young animals.

FMD is a World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) listed disease and represents the greatest disease threat to Australia's livestock industries and export markets.

It has the potential for rapid and extensive spread, and an outbreak would jeopardise the export of all cloven-hoofed animals and their products.

FMD is endemic in several parts of Asia, a large part of Africa and the Middle East.

In Latin America, the majority of countries applied zoning and are recognized free of FMD with or without vaccination, and the disease remains endemic in only a few countries or regions within certain countries.

Australia, New Zealand, Central and North America, and Western Europe are currently free of FMD.

Most recently, 1,247 cases of FMD have been detected in four provinces of East Java, Indonesia (Gresik, Lamongan, Sidoarjo, Mojokerta), a mere 1500 kilometres from Australia's shoreline.

**Emergency Animal Disease
Watch Hotline: 1800 675 888**



Hoof blister



Mouth blister



Blister on tongue



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WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF FMD?

The severity of clinical signs will depend on the strain of virus, the age of the animals and the species and breed affected.

Typical clinical signs include the occurrence of blisters (or vesicles) on the muzzle, tongue, lips, mouth, between the toes, above the hooves, teats and potential pressure points on the skin.

Ruptured blisters in the interdigital space can result in extreme lameness and reluctance to move or eat due to vesicles in the mouth. Secondary bacterial infection of open blisters can also occur.

Other symptoms often seen are fever, depression, hypersalivation, loss of appetite and weight, and decreased milk production.

HOW IS FMD TRANSMITTED AND SPREAD?

It can spread easily and rapidly by:

- introduction of new animals carrying the virus (saliva, milk, semen, etc.) to a herd.
- use of contaminated pens, buildings or vehicles to house and transport susceptible animals.
- use of contaminated materials such as hay, feed, water, milk or biologics.
- wearing contaminated clothing or footwear, or using contaminated equipment.
- feeding susceptible animals with animal products, raw or improperly cooked food, infected with the virus.
- dissemination of virus by aerosols transported from an infected property via air currents.
- accidental release of virus from a laboratory.
- use of vaccines containing live virus due to production errors in manufacture.

HOW TO REPORT FMD

Any suspected or confirmed cases of FMD should be reported immediately. To report suspected or confirmed cases, contact the Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.

The EAD Watch Hotline is a 24 hours/day, seven days/week service.

Calling the EAD Watch Hotline shouldn't be considered as a last resort, an imposition on someone, or a number to be called only when there is already an outbreak somewhere else.

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