

# Emergency Animal Diseases (EAD)



## Foot and mouth disease (FMD)

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious disease which affects pigs and other cloven-hoofed animals including cattle, sheep, goats, camelids, and deer. It causes lesions and lameness in affected pigs, and while there are vaccines against it, they will not be made available until or unless FMD arrives in Australia.

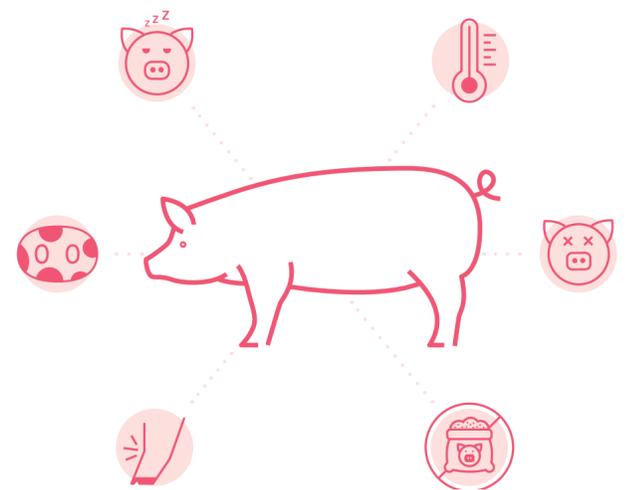
It cannot infect humans, and is not the same as Hand, foot, and mouth disease which is common in children. As such, FMD is not a human health or food safety risk.

It can be spread directly from affected animal to affected animal through fluids (including saliva, faeces, urine, semen, milk, and fluid from ruptured blisters).

Swill feeding poses the largest risk of FMD infection to pigs. It can also be spread by contaminated syringes, feed, water, clothing, footwear, vehicles, equipment, and soil. Additionally, virus in an infected animal's exhaled air can be spread over several kilometres if it becomes windborne.

### Signs of FMD include:

- Blistering of the tongue, mouth, snout, hooves, or teats of recently-farrowed sows
- Lameness or reluctance to move
- Fever
- Abortion (in sows)
- Drooling
- Lack of appetite
- In severe cases - death



## African swine fever (ASF)

African swine fever (ASF) is a highly infectious and contagious disease which affects both farmed pigs and feral/wild pigs of all ages. It is usually fatal in infected pigs, and there is currently not a vaccine against it, which is why an ASF outbreak poses such a high risk to the pork industry.

ASF only affects pigs. It cannot infect humans and so does not pose a risk to human health or to food safety.

This does not mean that humans and other animals cannot spread ASF, however; contaminated feed, water, clothing, footwear, vehicles, equipment, and soil can spread the virus. Additionally, it can be spread from pig to pig (including feral pigs) through infected discharges and faeces, the consumption of infected meat (swill feeding), bites of soft ticks, the bites of lice and flies and/or from contaminated syringes.

### Signs of ASF include:

- Fever followed by dullness
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Breathing difficulty
- Coughing
- Nasal and eye discharge
- Abortion
- Blue or red discolouration of the skin (cyanosis) particularly the ears, snout, legs, and belly
- Death

These symptoms can make it difficult to diagnose ASF because it presents so similarly to other haemorrhagic diseases.

If FMD or ASF were detected in pigs in Australia, it would trigger an emergency animal disease (EAD) response, which is outlined in the AUSVETPLAN. The response – designed to stop further spread of the disease – may involve a stock standstill, restricted access for feed trucks and other vehicles, and the destruction of pigs.

**EMERGENCY ANIMAL  
DISEASE WATCH HOTLINE  
1800 675 888**

## EAD Hotline

If you observe signs in your pigs, which could be related to an emergency animal disease like FMD, or are resulting in lots of deaths, then you should call your vet or the emergency animal disease watch hotline on **1800 675 888**.

A quick response to a disease incursion gives the industry the best chance to minimise its spread and impact.

## Biosecurity:

Good biosecurity practices will help protect your pigs from being infected by Emergency Animal Diseases like FMD. **These include:**



No swill feeding



Ensure all pig movements onto and off of the property are accompanied by a PigPass NVD



Quarantine newly arrived stock for at least 30 days



Restrict the movement of unauthorised people, vehicles, and animals (including pest species) through the use of physical barriers like fences, and gates, and the implementation of clean and dirty zones, and visitor sign-in processes.



Implement cleaning and disinfection and general hygiene practices for people, vehicles, equipment, and clothing.