

Why is it important?

- It is a trade sensitive disease and has a severe negative impact on the economy of the country.
- It is a controlled disease in terms of the Animal Diseases Act 1984, (Act No. 35 of 1984).
- Though it does not kill affected animals, owners lose money due to a sudden drop in production.

Where does Foot and Mouth disease occur?

- In South Africa, buffalo in the Kruger National Park live with the disease but show no signs. To stop the disease from spreading, there are several control measures, which include separation of infected animals, vaccination, inspections and movement controls.



What to do when animals get the disease?

- If you see any signs of Foot-and-mouth disease in your cattle, immediately contact your Animal Health Technician or State Veterinarian.



Foot and Mouth disease



agriculture,
forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



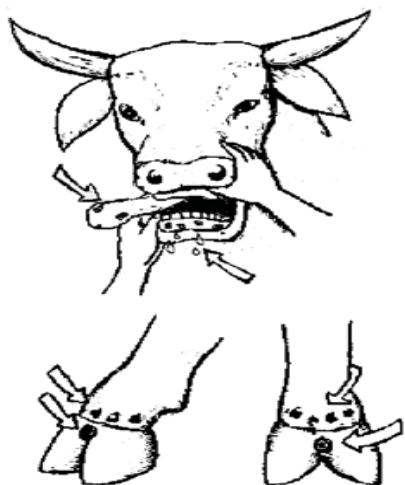
Foot and Mouth disease

Is a serious disease that spreads easily. It is caused by the virus that is found in all body fluids such as saliva, urine, faeces and milk.

- Animals get this disease when eating or breathing in the virus from these body fluids.
- People can also spread the virus by unclean clothing, shoes, hands and car tyres.
- It affects mainly cattle, pigs, goats, sheep and other cloven-hooved animals, including wildlife such as buffalo and antelope.

What are the signs?

- Blisters and sores in the mouth (gums, lips and tongue), are raw and painful, making it difficult for the animal to eat and often causes drooling.
- Blisters and sores between the toes and where the hooves join the skin can cause the animals to limp and not want to walk around. Sometimes they may lose their claws or hooves.
- Cows can develop sores on their teats. This results in a sudden drop in milk production.



Note:

**People cannot get sick from
Foot and Mouth disease**

**Feel free to contact your
nearest state / private
veterinarian / animal health
technician for further
information**

For technical queries contact:
Directorate: Animal Health

For awareness and promotion contact:
Directorate: Food Import and Export
Standards

Animal Health
Tel.: +27 12 319 7456
Fax: +27 12 329 7218
E-mail: Epidemiology@daff.gov.za
Website: www.daff.gov.za

Animal Health Promotion Division
Tel.: +27 12 319 6004/6117/6444
E-mail: info.sps@daff.gov.za
Website: www.daff.gov.za