



FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is foot and mouth disease?

- Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a severe, highly contagious viral disease of livestock that has a significant economic impact. The disease affects cattle, swine, sheep, goats and other cloven-hoofed ruminants. The virus is found in all body fluids, such as saliva, urine, faeces, milk and in the air that diseased animals expel.
- Animals get this disease when eating or breathing in the virus from these body fluids.
- People can also spread the virus through contaminated clothing, shoes, hands and tyres.



2. 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 cause 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.
- Cows can develop sores on their teats. This results in a sudden drop in milk production.



3. Why is FMD important?

- Farmers lose money because sick animals lose weight, do not grow and produce less milk. Young calves may die.
- A large amount of money is spent on controlling and containing the disease.
- Countries that do not have the disease will not buy animals, meat or meat products from South Africa when the disease spreads.

4. What to do in suspected cases?

- If any signs of foot and mouth disease are seen, immediately call your nearest State Veterinarian.
- FMD diseased or suspected animals are prohibited to be admitted in an abattoir or slaughtered.
- If FMD is suspected on post-mortem examination, the carcass and viscera need to be handled as prescribed by the State Veterinarian.
- The room and all the equipment need to be disinfected with acetic acid to prevent the spread of the virus in the abattoir.

5. How to report foot and mouth disease?

- For more information and to report suspected cases of foot and mouth disease, please contact your nearest Western Cape Department of Agriculture, State Veterinarian Office, located throughout the Western Cape Province. See contact details below:



CONTACTS:

TITLE	CONTACT NO.	E-MAIL	ADDRESS
State Veterinarian: George	044-803-3771/0	SVGeorge@ westerncape.gov.za	4 Varing Avenue, George
State Veterinarian: Boland	021-808-5028/ 5253	SVBoland@ westerncape.gov.za	Western Cape Department of Agriculture building, Muldersvlei road, Elsenburg
State Veterinarian: Swellendam	021-808-5059/ 028-425-4850	DOA.svswellendam@ westerncape.gov.za	67 Voortrekker St, Swellendam
State Veterinarian: Beaufort West	023-414-9220/1	DOA.svbeaufortwest@ westerncape.gov.za	Blyth St, Beaufort West
State Veterinarian: Vredendal	027-201-3514/-0	DOA.svvredendal@ westerncape.gov.za	Cnr Matzikama and Noord St. Vredendal
State Veterinarian: Malmesbury	022-482-1380	DOA.svmalmesbury@ westerncape.gov.za	Cnr Spoorweg and Munisipale St, Malmesbury
State Veterinarian: Oudtshoorn	044-203-9443/5	DOA.svoudtshoorn@ westerncape.gov.za	43 Van Der Riet St, Oudtshoorn
State Veterinarian: Worcester	021-808-5052	DOA.svworcester@ westerncape.gov.za	30 Van Arckel St, Worcester