
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ANIMAL HEALTH
Mexico-United States Commission for Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease
and other Animal Exotic Diseases

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Foot-and-mouth disease is a highly contagious viral disease that affects bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine, as well as buffaloes, deer and boars, among others, and it is characterized by causing blisters and sores in the mouth and hooves of infected animals.

What is its geographical distribution?

This disease is found in some South American, Asian and African countries.

Who or what causes it?

It is caused by an *Aphthovirus* genus virus of the Picornaviridae family, which has seven immunologically different serotypes (A, O, C, SAT1, SAT2, SAT3 and Asia1).

How is the virus transmitted?

The virus is found in secretions and excreta of infected animals (exhalations, saliva, milk, semen, urine and feces), although the highest levels are found in the vesicular fluids. It can be transmitted by direct contact or by fomites, like individuals, vehicles, materials or equipment and can even be airborne under favorable weather conditions.

What are the clinical signs?

Blisters and sores appear in gums, tongue coronary band (above the hooves), interdigital spaces and nipples of bovines; there is also fever, depression, loss of appetite, mucous nasal discharge, hypersalivation, smacking of lips and difficulty to walk; females have miscarriages, inflammation of udders and a decreased milk production.

Porcine show the same signs although they are less evident; however, the sores that appear in their hooves are more severe and painful, which prevents them from standing.

Clinical signs go unnoticed in ovine and caprine, although some young animals can die due to heart failure.

How is the disease diagnosed?

It is difficult to clinically distinguish foot-and-mouth disease from other diseases such as vesicular stomatitis, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis, viral bovine diarrhea, bovine papular stomatitis, blue tongue, contagious ecthyma, swine vesicular disease and Senecavirus infection, since the signs are similar. Therefore, it is necessary to diagnose in an official laboratory.

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How can it be prevented?

Mexico has been free of foot-and-mouth disease since 1955; thus, it is necessary to control the import of animals and their products and byproducts, and bolster biosafety measures in livestock production units.

SENASICA carries out a permanent epidemiological surveillance aimed to timely detect animal diseases endangering livestock assets and the public health of our country.

Report immediately to the official veterinarian services about any suspicious case; an official veterinarian will visit the production unit, obtain the samples for laboratory diagnosis and give the appropriate instructions.

Contact us for more information or to report any suspicious cases:

Emergency phone: 01 (800) 751 2100
(24 hours/day - 365 days/year)

Phone: 01 (55) 5905 1000
(Extensions 51236, 51242 and 51243)

E-mail addresses:
sive.dgsa@senasica.gob.mx
gestioncpa.dgsa@senasica.gob.mx

You can also report at any SADER or SENASICA offices, or at the Regional Coordination Offices of the CPA closest to your community.