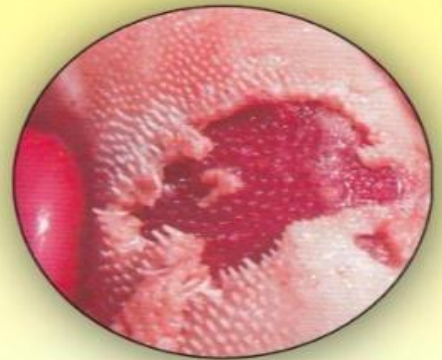


# Foot & Mouth Disease



**Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral disease of all cloven hoofed animals. There is no treatment for FMD.**

**O**utbreaks of FMD can occur when susceptible animals come into contact with infected animals, animal products or swill.

**T**he virus is found in all bodily secretions of infected animals. (ruptured blisters, exhaled air, saliva, milk, semen, faeces & urine)

The primary method of transmission within herds \ flocks is by close contact and inhaling respiratory droplets or particles.

FMD can also be spread indirectly by people - on their clothing, shoes, hands and vehicle tyres.

Under favourable conditions, windborne spread of the virus over many Kilometers, can also occur.

**T**he first clinical signs start as blisters on the tongue and in the mouth causing excessive salivation. Lameness is also a frequent sign, due to blisters forming between and above the hoof.

Often in FMD free areas, the first cases may not be clinically dramatic. The disease is usually mild in sheep and goats.

**V**iral transmission can occur up to 10 days before the appearance of blisters. The incubation period of FMD is around 14 days.

**F**MD has an impact on the economy of a country and can be responsible for large-scale economic losses. FMD can potentially halt exports of all animals and animal products as well as agricultural products used as animal feed. Strict movement control of cloven-hoofed animals and their products is thus applied to prevent the spread of the disease from infected to non infected areas.

Vaccinations only take place under strict State Control.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
CONTACT YOUR NEAREST  
STATE VETERINARIAN**



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