

Vesicular Stomatitis
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Vesicular Stomatitis is a viral disease with clinical signs which are similar (although generally less severe) than those of foot-and-mouth disease. Vesicular Stomatitis causes blister-like lesions to form in the mouth and on the dental pad, tongue, lips, nostrils, hooves, and teats. These blisters swell and break, leaving raw tissues that is painful, infected animals generally refuse to eat or drink and show signs of lameness. Severe weight loss usually follows and in dairy cows a severe drop in milk production commonly occurs. The animals at most risk of the disease are horses, cattle and swine; however other animals may also contract the disease. Rarely, humans can become infected with Vesicular Stomatitis when handling affected animals.

If animals are suspected of or have the disease the following procedures are recommended.

1. Contact your veterinarian immediately. Your veterinarian will notify the State Veterinarian.
2. Separate animals with lesions from healthy animals.
3. Do not move animals from premises affected with Vesicular Stomatitis for at least 30 days after the last lesion found has healed.
4. Use protective measures when handling affected animals to avoid human exposure.

Vesicular Stomatitis was recently confirmed in horses in Cochise County, Arizona. In order to protect the livestock industry within the state of Florida the State Veterinarian has issued the following requirements for all livestock entering Florida from Arizona.

Requirements

1. All hoofed animals including horses, ruminants, swine, exotic and wild hoofed animals originating from a VS- affected state must be accompanied by a current Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection dated within (5) days of entry into Florida and must include the following statement:
 - a. "All animals susceptible to Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) identified and included in this OCVI for shipment have been examined and found to be free from clinical signs and vectors of VS and have not been exposed to VS virus and have not been within 10 miles of a VS-infected premises within the last 30 days.
2. Prior permission for entry into Florida is required from the Department at (850) 410-0959 . The entry permit number must be recorded on the OCVI.

Exemptions

1. Florida origin livestock returning to Florida within 30 days on the original OCVI are exempt from all of the above requirements and will be allowed re-entry into Florida under quarantine for inspection 14-21 days after re-entry into the state.

This disease is considered as dangerous and highly transmissible and is considered a significant animal health risk. It is therefore considered a reportable disease and any person who has knowledge of or suspects the existence of Vesicular Stomatitis within the State of Florida shall immediately report

suspicious or findings to the State Veterinarian. (office hours (850) 410-0900; fax (850) 410-0915; After hours : 1(800)342-5869; email rad@doacs.state.fl.us). For additional information regarding Vesicular Stomatitis, view the USDA factsheet at:

www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/fs_vesicular_stomatitis_07.pdf.