

Foot-and-Mouth Disease

This is primarily a disease of domestic and wild cloven-hoofed animals (Artiodactyla); that is cattle, antelope, sheep, goats, deer, pigs and camels. However, a wide range of mammal species have been reported to have been infected with the Foot-and-Mouth Disease virus and reports of clinical disease have been recorded for at least 12 orders of animals.

The major host species for FMD virus are widely recognised to be domestic cattle (*Bos taurus* - Domestic cattle), sheep (*Ovis aries* - Domestic sheep), goats (*Capra hircus* - Domestic goat) and pigs (*Sus domesticus* - Domestic pig), whilst *Syncerus caffer* - African buffalo is considered to be the definitive host for some serotypes.

Natural infection with FMD virus can cause serious disease in other species, including elephants (Elephantidae) and hedgehogs. A wide variety of species, including many rodents, have been experimentally infected by injection, but considerably fewer species have been infected by natural contact (either experimentally or in the field / wild).

Horses are accepted to be totally resistant to Foot-and-Mouth Disease virus and in general carnivores are resistant. In principle, virus may be transported in or on any species, including those which are and those which are not susceptible to infection. This includes wild birds, wild rodents, insects (flies and ticks) and earthworms.

F&M virus is quite non specific, it will infect a wide range of species. There was even one human case in UK in 1966, very mild. Also its pretty stable for a long time in the environment and not very susceptible to disinfection.

DEFRA at the moment are only focussed on controlling cloven hoofed stock because thats where the disease is, but if the lab has released the virus they may have infected wildlife since anything could have inhaled it, its easier to see spread to wildlife that way than being infected from cattle.

Foot & Mouth DEFRA INFO Animal Movements – live animals: the National Movement Ban put into place on Friday 3rd August applies to all ruminant and pig species. This includes exotic species. As such all movements of FMDV susceptible animals are prohibited unless under licence until further notice. Lifting of the National Movement Ban will be reported on the Defra website where further information is obtainable.

CIRCUSES SHOULD NOT MOVE WITHOUT PERMISSION - ANY CONCERNS PLEASE CONTACT LOCAL DEFRA OR ANIMAL HEALTH OFFICES Supplies of meat from susceptible species. This is becoming difficult although there should not be problems with supplies of horse meat as there are no restrictions on this. Regarding other meats frozen meat can be used/supplied as long as it was culled prior to the 15th July and did not originate in the current PZ or SZ.

DEFRA announced Tuesday morning (7th Aug) that a further suspected case of FMD had been confirmed at a farm in Surrey, situated within the 3km Protection Zone (PZ) that had been set up around the first farm to have the disease. Animals from the second farm had been culled on Monday, as vets spotted signs of the disease.

Further to the Declaration of a Protection Zone, Surveillance Zone (SZ) and Restricted Zone made on 4th and 5th August 2007 (and that was included in e-newsletter no.18) DEFRA have just provided an amended

declaration and map which extends the size of the PZ and SZ following this latest case.

Please be aware that restrictions on movements within the protection zone (PZ) include all animals, including pet retail, boarding establishment and grooming. The restrictions in the PZ are constantly being reviewed and we recommend that you visit www.defra.gov.uk/footandmouth for updated information.

Anyone wishing to move an animal within the PZ for welfare reasons can do so under licence. A licence can be obtained from your local DEFRA office which can be located on the website at Animal Health Offices or by phoning the FMD helpline on 08459 335577.