

Prohibited matter – pests and diseases of animals

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Animal Biosecurity, NSW DPI

What animal pests and diseases are prohibited matter?

Animal pests and diseases which are prohibited matter are listed in [Schedule 2](#) of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act).

Most prohibited matter animal pests or diseases are exotic to Australia, e.g. foot and mouth disease, rabies and bovine spongiform encephalopathy ('mad cow disease'). If they were introduced and became established here, they could impact severely on trade, livestock production, animal welfare, the environment, human health or community amenity.

A few diseases are declared as prohibited matter in New South Wales even though they already occur in other Australian states, e.g. Devil facial tumour disease. This is because New South Wales wants to prevent these diseases from becoming established in our state.

Some other diseases that occasionally occur in New South Wales are declared as prohibited matter because of their serious consequences, particularly if they have the potential to spread to humans e.g. Hendra virus infection and anthrax.

By remaining vigilant and reporting as soon as you suspect an animal pest or disease which is prohibited matter, you can play a vital role in protecting livestock industries and preventing disease spread to animals and possibly to humans.

Who has to report a suspected prohibited matter animal pest or disease?

People who know or suspect a prohibited matter animal pest or disease is present in or on:

- an animal, or
- an animal product (including meat, milk, eggs and wool), or
- a premises such as land or a building, or

- a carrier or other thing (including a vehicle, feed or equipment)

must immediately report it verbally to authorities.

This duty to report applies to the owner, occupier or person in charge of an animal, animal product, premises, carrier or other thing in or on which the prohibited matter is present or suspected to be present. It also applies people such as a veterinarian, animal keeper, animal advisor, animal scientist etc. who becomes aware of, or suspects, the presence of prohibited matter as part of their work.

There is no requirement to report if you know the matter has already been reported by another person.

Veterinarians should also report any new or emerging pests or diseases of animals including a pest or disease that is affecting an animal species not previously known to be affected by the pest or disease.

How to report a prohibited matter pest or disease of animals?

If you suspect a prohibited matter pest or disease of animals, you must immediately report it verbally. Phone your [Local Land Services](#) on 1300 795 299 (during business hours), or a NSW Department of Primary Industries veterinarian or authorised officer. Alternatively call the Animal Disease Hotline – 1800 675 888 – which is monitored 24 hours a day. The following information must be supplied when making a report:

- your full name and contact phone number,
- the suspected pest or disease you are reporting,
- the location of the suspected pest or disease (including any relevant property identification code),
- details of any significant biosecurity impact, and
- any other information requested by the person or body to whom the notification is required to be given.

When should I suspect a prohibited matter pest or disease of animals?

If you notice unusual clinical signs of disease in animals such as sudden unexplained deaths, lameness, diarrhoea, salivation or nasal discharge you should report the issue so it can be investigated.

It's worth noting that the signs can be vague and subtle, or spectacular. It is your responsibility to notify someone quickly if you spot something unusual.

The following signs must be reported:

- a) ulcers or blisters on the mouth or feet of ruminants or pigs,

- b) an unexplained and significant increase in the rate of disease or deaths in animals,
- c) an unexplained and significant fall in production relating to animals,
- d) other unexplained and significant clinical signs in animals including, but not limited to, unexplained nervous signs.

Other obligations if you suspect a prohibited matter pest or disease of animals

General biosecurity duty

Under the Act a person who becomes aware of, or suspects, the presence of prohibited matter pest or disease of animals has a general biosecurity duty to take reasonably practicable steps to prevent, eliminate or minimise the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the prohibited matter.

This general biosecurity duty applies to the owner, occupier or person in charge of an animal, animal product, premises, carrier or other thing which the prohibited matter is present or suspected to be present. It also applies to a person such as a veterinarian, animal keeper, animal advisor, animal scientist etc. who becomes aware of, or suspects, the presence of prohibited matter as a result of any consultation or other work carried in the person's professional capacity.

Potential ways to discharge this general biosecurity duty will include:

- regularly monitoring of your animals for signs of disease/infestation
- immediate notification of suspected disease/infestation
- isolation of a potentially infected animal, carrier or premises
- vaccination of at risk animals
- disinfection of potentially infected items
- requesting and supplying a completed animal health statement/declaration
- making and maintaining records to assist in disease or pest tracing
- appropriate disposal e.g. of infected carcasses.

See the [Department of Primary Industries web site](#) or contact your [Local Land Services](#) for more specific advice on how to discharge your 'biosecurity duty'.

Requirements for testing for prohibited matter animal pests or diseases

There are specific requirements for testing for prohibited matter pests or diseases of animals under the Prohibited matter ([diagnostics](#)) exemption order 2019. Testing must be carried out in a veterinary laboratory accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities or in a government veterinary laboratory. The exemption order also allows veterinarians and

authorised officers to test for anthrax using the immunochromatographic test ('anthrax ICT test').

What will NSW DPI or LLS do if a prohibited matter pest or disease of animals is suspected or detected?

Staff from NSW DPI or LLS will ensure that reports of suspected prohibited matter animal pests or diseases are assessed and investigated to exclude or confirm the suspicion of disease. Steps will also be taken to prevent, eliminate, or minimise any further biosecurity risk. Potential actions may include:

- restricting movements to and from affected sites,
- tracing to identify potentially infected/infested animals, animal products, premises, equipment, feed or other things,
- requiring disinfection or disinfestation protocols,
- surveillance to identify the extent of the outbreak, and
- destruction and disposal of infected or infested animals/things.

Which pests or diseases of animals are listed as prohibited matter in New South Wales?

A list of prohibited matter pests and diseases of animals considered exotic to Australia is shown in Table 1. Table 2 lists prohibited matter animal pests and diseases that have occurred or are present in some parts of Australia but do not normally occur in New South Wales. Table 3 lists prohibited matter animal pests and diseases that are considered endemic or sporadic in New South Wales. These pests and diseases must be reported if they are suspected or confirmed in any animal in New South Wales.

Note that the definition of an animal under the Biosecurity Regulation 2017 is any non-human member of the Animalia kingdom, whether whole or in part, and whether alive or dead, and includes any other product of an animal from which another animal could be produced.

For the list of prohibited matter pests and diseases of aquatic animals see [Schedule 2](#) of the Biosecurity Act 2015.

Table 1. Prohibited matter pests and diseases of animals that are considered exotic to Australia.

Name of pest or disease	Other common name
<i>Acaraspis woodi</i>	Acariasis tracheal mite
African horse sickness virus	
African swine fever	

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Aujeszky's disease virus	
<i>Avian metapneumovirus</i>	Turkey rhinotracheitis
<i>Babesia caballi</i>	Equine piroplasmiasis
Bluetongue (clinical disease)	
Borna disease virus	
Bovine virus diarrhoea type 2	
Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy	
<i>Brucella abortus</i>	Bovine brucellosis
<i>Brucella canis</i>	Canine brucellosis
<i>Brucella melitensis</i>	Brucellosis
<i>Burkholderia mallei</i>	Glanders
Camelpox	
<i>Chlamydia abortus</i>	Enzootic abortion of ewes/ovine chlamydiosis
<i>Chrysomya bezziana</i>	Screw-worm fly—Old World
Chronic wasting disease of deer	
Classical swine fever virus	
<i>Cochliomyia hominivorax</i>	Screw-worm fly—New World
Contagious agalactia	
Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever	
<i>Echinococcus multilocularis</i>	Echinococcus multilocularis
<i>Ehrlichia ruminantium</i>	Heartwater
Encephalitides (tick borne)	
Epizootic haemorrhagic disease (clinical disease)	
Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern, Western and Venezuelan)	
Equine encephalosis virus	
Equine herpes—virus 1 (neurological strain)	
Equine influenza	
Feline spongiform encephalopathy	
Foot and mouth disease	
Getah virus	
Goat pox	

Haemorrhagic septicaemia	
Highly pathogenic avian influenza	
<i>Histoplasma capsulatum</i> var. <i>farciminosum</i>	Epizootic lymphangitis
Infectious bursal disease (very virulent and exotic antigenic variant forms)	
Japanese encephalitis	
Jembrana disease virus	
Louping ill	
Lumpy skin disease	
Lyssaviruses (exotic genotypes)	
Maedi-visna	
Malignant catarrhal fever (wildebeest associated)	
<i>Mycobacterium bovis</i>	Tuberculosis/Bovine tuberculosis
<i>Mycoplasma capricolum</i> subsp. <i>capripneumoniae</i>	Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia
<i>Mycoplasma mycoides</i> subsp. <i>mycoides</i> small colony type	Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia
	Nairobi sheep disease
<i>Neorickettsia risticii</i>	Potomac fever
Newcastle disease (all strains other than non-pathogenic V4-like strains)	
Nipah virus	
Peste des petits ruminants virus	
Porcine epidemic diarrhoea virus	
Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome	
Post-weaning multi-systemic wasting syndrome	
<i>Psoroptes ovis</i>	Sheep scab
Pulmonary adenomatosis (Jaagsiekte)	
Rabies	
Rift Valley fever virus	
Rinderpest virus	
<i>Salmonella abortus-equi</i>	Salmonellosis
<i>Salmonella abortus-ovis</i>	Salmonellosis
<i>Salmonella gallinarum</i>	Fowl typhoid

Scrapie	
Sheep pox	
Swine influenza (except influenza A(H1N1)pdm09)	
Swine vesicular disease virus	
<i>Taylorella equigenitalis</i>	Contagious equine metritis
Teschovirus encephalomyelitis	
<i>Theileria equi</i>	Equine piroplasmosis
<i>Theileria parva</i>	Exotic theileria/East coast fever
<i>Theileria annulata</i>	Mediterranean theileriosis/Tropical theileriosis
Transmissible gastroenteritis	
Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies	
<i>Trichinella</i> spp. (all species)	Trichinellosis
<i>Tropilaelaps clareae</i>	Tropilaelaps mite
<i>Tropilaelaps mercedesae</i>	Tropilaelaps mite
Trypanosomiasis (tsetse fly associated)	
<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i>	Chagas' disease
<i>Trypanosoma equiperdum</i>	Dourine
<i>Trypanosoma evansi</i>	Surra
<i>Varroa destructor</i>	Varroa mite
Vesicular exanthema	
Vesicular stomatitis virus	
Warble-fly myiasis	
Wesselsbron virus	

Table 2: Prohibited matter pests and diseases of animals that have occurred or are present in parts of Australia but do not normally occur in NSW.

Name of pest or disease	Other common name
Braula fly/Bee louse	<i>Braula coeca</i>
Devil Facial Tumour Disease	

Varroa mite

*Varroa jacobsoni***Table 3: Pests and diseases of animals listed as Prohibited matter that may occur in NSW.**

Name of pest or disease
Anthrax
Australian bat lyssavirus (clinical disease in animals other than bats)
Hendra virus (other than in pteropid bats)
Menangle virus
Tularaemia

More information

General biosecurity enquires phone 1800 680 244 or email animal.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au

See also:

- See the health and disease pages at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock> for links to information on specific prohibited matter animal pests and diseases e.g. anthrax.
- Primefact 955 Recognising exotic diseases of pigs at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/pigs/health/exotic-diseases-of-pigs/exotic-diseases>
- Primefact 1447 Recognising exotic diseases of birds at <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/poultry-and-birds/health-disease/recognising-exotic-diseases-of-birds>

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