

# Foot and Mouth Disease Fact Sheet



## Introduction

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is an infectious disease of cloven footed animals like cattle, buffalo, sheep and goat. FMD is the major constraints to achieve optimum milk and meat production.

## What signs are shown by animals affected by FMD

The following signs are shown by animals infected with FMD. Sheep and goats often show milder signs than cattle or buffalo:

- Fever
- Depression
- Decreased appetite / unwillingness to eat
- Lameness
- Blisters, sores or watery discharge on the skin between the toes and along the skin above the hoof (see picture)
- Blisters or sores in the mouth and on the tongue
- Young animals can die suddenly without any other signs

## How is FMD spread?

- Infected animals spread the infection in their breath, saliva, milk, urine, feces and semen.
- Other animals can become infected by:
  - Direct contact with infected animals OR
  - Contaminated feed, water and bedding
  - Contaminated clothing, footwear, pens/buildings and vehicles.
- Animals are infectious for several days before they show signs themselves
- Animals can remain infectious for weeks to months after they stop showing obvious signs



Sores between claws and along the top of hooves in a goat with FMD

## How FMD is diagnosed

- FMD is suspected when many animals, including goats, sheep, cattle and buffalo, show clinical signs
- Tests on blood samples and samples taken from sores on infected animals will confirm the disease



## What to do if you suspect FMD

In case your animal is suspected with FMD then call nearby veterinary doctor or assistant from the government livestock dispensary in your village or union council.

## Treatment

- Gently apply antiseptics such as iodine, potassium permanganate, sodium carbonate and glycerin to sores on feet and mouth
- Make sure animals have easy access to water and gentle food, and encourage them to eat
- Treat with antibiotics such as penicillin or oxytetracycline once daily for 5 days according to the label instructions



Examples of antiseptic & glycerine used for treating FMD sores

## Infection control/hygiene

- FMD is very infectious—do not let infected animals come into contact with healthy animals
- Feed and treat infected animals last in the day
- Disinfect hands, clothing and footwear before handling healthy animals to avoid spreading the infection using hot soapy water or disinfectants such as citric acid
- Do not move or sell infected animals

## Prevention

- FMD can be prevented by vaccinating animals before they become infected
- Animals should preferably receive at least two doses of vaccine, at least 1 month apart
- A single vaccination still protects animals against infection for about 6 months



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