



VESICULAR STOMATITIS

Guidance for Positive and Suspect Premises



Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) is a viral disease that usually affects equines and cattle, but can also affect sheep, goats, pigs, llamas, alpacas, and camels. This disease is common in South and Central America, but occasional outbreaks are seen in North America. In cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs, the disease can look just like Foot and Mouth Disease.

QUARANTINE

All suspect and positive premises are placed under quarantine for 14 days after the last detected case. No animals may be moved off of the property during the period of quarantine.

TESTING

Animals are tested for VS by drawing blood and swabbing the sores or scabs. The blood samples test for antibodies to the disease, and the swabs are used to detect the virus. Samples are sent to either the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory or USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratory.

SIGNS

Signs of VS appear 2-8 days after infection and include:

- Blisters, sores, or scabbing on hairless areas such as the mouth, nose, ears, hooves, sheath, and udder
- Fever
- Drooling/frothing at mouth
- Reluctance to eat
- Lameness if lesions develop around the hoof

HUMAN DISEASE

Human cases of VS are rare. VS can cause flu-like symptoms (fever, muscle aches, headaches, and tiredness) in people who come in contact with blisters or saliva. Wear gloves when handling infected animals and wash hands thoroughly before eating or touching your eyes.

TREATMENT

VS does not usually cause animals to die. There is no treatment or cure for VS, but anti-inflammatory medications and fluids may help make your animal more comfortable as it recovers. Ask your veterinarian about treatment options for your animals.

PREVENTING SPREAD

VS is spread by biting flies and midges and by contact between infected animals. Infected animals shed the virus from their blisters, so contact with infected animals or shared water, feed, buckets, and other equipment, as well as shoes, clothing, and hands can spread VS. Sunlight, heat, and many common disinfectants will destroy VS virus.

To prevent spread of VS to other animals by:

- Separating infected from healthy animals
- Use individual feeders, waterers, and equipment when possible
- Use fly control around barns and stables
- Handle healthy animals before sick animals
- After handling sick animals, wash and disinfect your hands and boots and wash your clothes.

FLY CONTROL

The key to a successful fly control program is to eliminate breeding sites. Clean barns and corrals once a week to break fly life cycles. Check for wet areas around the barns where flies may lay eggs.

Insecticides can temporarily reduce fly and midge populations by killing adult flies. Residual sprays should be applied to walls, ceilings, and rafters. Foggers and sprays can provide a quick knock-down. Fly baits work on house flies, but not stable flies, and should be kept out of reach of animals.

Other methods of control include:

- Screening of feed and tack rooms and box stalls
- Fans that blow downward and outward near doors
- Fly traps to monitor fly numbers
- Fly parasites