

# EXOTIC

## Aujeszky's disease

### *Fact sheet*

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#### Introductory statement

Aujeszky's disease is **not found** in Australia. Aujeszky's disease is a viral disease that causes encephalomyelitis and respiratory disease in domestic and wild animals. The disease is also called pseudorabies or mad itch.

Aujeszky's disease is caused by a herpesvirus that infects the nervous system and other organs, such as the respiratory tract. The pig is the only natural host for the disease. Sporadic cases occur in cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, camels, dogs, cats, foxes, mink, deer, rabbits, mice and rats. The disease is usually fatal in these other species.

Ruminants are generally considered to be 'dead-end' hosts. Rodents and wild animals may have a role in maintaining and spreading the disease. In dogs and cats, there can be intense pruritus, paralysis of the throat and convulsions, with death occurring within 48 hours in dogs and often more rapidly in cats. Pigs may remain latently infected following clinical recovery.

There have been no substantiated reports of human infection.

If you suspect a case of Aujeszky's disease you should immediately call the free **Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline (1800 675 888)**.

#### References and other information

The latest information on Aujeszky's disease is available from the OIE at [www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health\\_standards/tahm/2.01.02\\_AUJESZKYS\\_DIS.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahm/2.01.02_AUJESZKYS_DIS.pdf) and from the Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH)<sup>1</sup> website: [www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/aujeszkys\\_disease.pdf](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/aujeszkys_disease.pdf)

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<sup>1</sup> There is no OIE Technical Disease Card for Aujeszky's disease

OIE detection, reporting and control measures are located at:

[www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health\\_standards/tahm/2.01.02\\_AUJESZKYS\\_DIS.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahm/2.01.02_AUJESZKYS_DIS.pdf)

The Disease Strategy for the control and eradication of Aujeszky's disease, version 4.1, 2016 is available as part of the AUSVETPLAN series. Wildlife considerations as part of response are addressed in the WARS AUSVETPLAN. Both can be found at: [www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/our-publications/ausvetplan-manuals-and-documents/](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/our-publications/ausvetplan-manuals-and-documents/)

Information available on distribution and abundance of feral pigs and other animals in Australia can be accessed through "Distribution and abundance of significant invasive vertebrate pests" (2008) [www.pestsmart.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/West2008\\_3.pdf](http://www.pestsmart.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/West2008_3.pdf).

## Acknowledgements

This sheet summarises information available in the WARS AUSVETPLAN:

[www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/our-publications/ausvetplan-manuals-and-documents/](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/our-publications/ausvetplan-manuals-and-documents/)

We are grateful to those who have had input into this plan and Animal Health Australia who maintain the plan. The full AUSVETPLAN is available at: [www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/our-publications/ausvetplan-manuals-and-documents/](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/our-publications/ausvetplan-manuals-and-documents/).

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## To provide feedback on this fact sheet

Wildlife Health Australia would be very grateful for any feedback on this fact sheet. Please provide detailed comments or suggestions to [admin@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au](mailto:admin@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au). We would also like to hear from you if you have a particular area of expertise and would like to produce a fact sheet (or sheets) for the network (or update current sheets). A small amount of funding is available to facilitate this.

## Disclaimer

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