

EXOTIC

Bovine brucellosis

Fact sheet

Introductory statement

Bovine brucellosis is **not present** in Australia. Bovine brucellosis is a chronic infectious disease of cattle caused by the bacterium *Brucella abortus*, an intracellular parasite.

Bovine brucellosis results in abortion, stillbirth, infertility and reduced milk production. The disease was effectively eradicated in Australia by 1989. Other *Brucella* species infect pigs, sheep, goats, dogs, marine mammals and rodents. Cross-infection of cattle by these species is usually limited to a single animal, but the pig bacterium *B. suis* has become established in cattle in South America.

Humans are susceptible. Susceptible wild animals include cattle, buffalo, sheep, deer and rodents.

If you suspect a case of bovine brucellosis you should immediately call the free **Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline (1800 675 888)**.

References and other information

The latest information on bovine brucellosis is available from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) website: www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/animal-diseases/Brucellosis/ and www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahm/2.01.04_BRUCELLOSIS.pdf

OIE detection, reporting and control measures are located at:

www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_bovine_brucellosis.htm

The Disease Strategy for the control and eradication of bovine brucellosis, version 3.0, 2005 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/

Information available on distribution and abundance of feral cattle, buffalo and other susceptible feral 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

Acknowledgements

This sheet summarises information available in the WARS AUSVETPLAN:

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/.

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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. 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.

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