

EXOTIC

Contagious equine metritis

Fact sheet

Introductory statement

Contagious equine metritis (CEM) is not present in Australia. It is a sexually transmitted disease of horses that causes endometritis (inflammation of the lining of the uterus) and temporary infertility in mares. It is caused by infection with the bacterium *Taylorella equigenitalis*, strains of which vary in pathogenicity.

CEM is sometimes associated with cervicitis, vaginitis and rarely, abortion. Both sexes can be inapparent carriers of the bacteria.

CEM can be spread mechanically by contact with infectious discharges and contaminated fomites. All breeds of horses are susceptible, and donkeys can be infected experimentally.

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

References and other information

The latest information on CEM is available from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) website:
http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahm/2.05.02_CEM.pdf

OIE detection, reporting and control measures are located at:
http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_cem.htm

The Response Policy Brief for the control and eradication of CEM, version 3.6, 2018 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 horses and donkeys 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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