

EXOTIC

Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome

Fact sheet

Introductory statement

Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) has **never been recorded** in Australia.

PRRS is caused by an RNA virus of the genus *Arterivirus*, which infects macrophages and thus compromises the immune response in pigs.

Infected herds experience late-term abortions and stillbirths, weakness, reduced fertility, severe respiratory disease, high mortality among suckling and weaned pigs, deaths, and a delayed return to oestrus among sows. However, some infected herds show no signs of disease.

There has been some evidence that ducks can be infected under experimental conditions, but waterfowl are not considered to play any role in natural disease spread.

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

References and other information

The latest information on PRRS is available from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) website: www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/animal-diseases/Porcine-reproductive-and-respiratory-syndrome/ and www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahm/2.08.06_PRRS.pdf

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

The Disease Strategy for the control and eradication of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, version 3.0, 2006 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 pigs 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/.

Updated: August 2018

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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