

EXOTIC

Aujeszky's disease

Fact sheet

July 2023

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 **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline (1800 675 888)**.

References and other information

The latest information on Aujeszky's disease is available from the WOAHA at www.woah.org/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahm/3.01.02_AUJESZKYS.pdf and from the Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH)¹ website: www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/aujeszkys_disease.pdf.

WOAHA detection, reporting and control measures are located at: www.woah.org/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahc/current/chapitre_aujeszky.pdf.

The Disease Strategy for the control and eradication of Aujeszky's disease, version 5.0, 2021 is available as part of the AUSVETPLAN series. Wildlife considerations as part of response are

¹ There is no OIE Technical Disease Card for Aujeszky's disease.

addressed in the WARS AUSVETPLAN. Both can be found at:

<https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/ausvetplan>

Information available on distribution and abundance of feral pigs and other animals in Australia can be accessed through “Significant invasive species (vertebrate pests)” (2008)

[https://pestsmart.org.au/wp-](https://pestsmart.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/06/NLWRA_Invasive_Animals_Booklet.pdf)

[content/uploads/sites/3/2020/06/NLWRA_Invasive_Animals_Booklet.pdf](https://pestsmart.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/06/NLWRA_Invasive_Animals_Booklet.pdf).

Acknowledgements

This sheet summarises information available in the WARS AUSVETPLAN. 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: <https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/ausvetplan>

Updated: July 2023

To provide feedback on fact sheets

Wildlife Health Australia welcomes your feedback on fact sheets. Please email admin@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au. We would also like to hear from you if you have a particular area of expertise and are interested in creating or updating a WHA fact sheet. A small amount of funding is available to facilitate this.

Disclaimer

This fact sheet is managed by Wildlife Health Australia for information purposes only. Information contained in it is drawn from a variety of sources external to Wildlife Health Australia. Although reasonable care was taken in its preparation, Wildlife Health Australia does not guarantee or warrant the accuracy, reliability, completeness, or currency of the information or its usefulness in achieving any purpose. It should not be relied on in place of professional veterinary or medical consultation. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Wildlife Health Australia will not be liable for any loss, damage, cost or expense incurred in or arising by reason of any person relying on information in this fact sheet. Persons should accordingly make and rely on their own assessments and enquiries to verify the accuracy of the information provided.



Find out more at www.wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au

Email admin@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au

Or call +61 2 9960 6333