

EXOTIC

Bovine brucellosis

Fact sheet

July 2023

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

References and other information

The latest information on bovine brucellosis is available from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) website: www.woah.org/en/disease/brucellosis and www.woah.org/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahm/3.01.04_BRUCELLOSIS.pdf

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

The Disease Strategy for the control and eradication of bovine brucellosis, version 5.0, 2022 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: <https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/ausvetplan>

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

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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.

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Email admin@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au

Or call +61 2 9960 6333