

Reporting a suspected foreign animal disease

What to look for:

Since clinical signs for many foreign animal diseases resemble those of common endemic diseases, a complete history is essential to identify factors that raise suspicion of foreign animal disease. Pay attention to the following:

- Disease onset
- Foreign visitors or recent travel by employees
- Garbage feeding
- Which species are infected
- Recent animal introductions
- Consumption of foreign foodstuffs by employees
- Presence of vesicles/blisters
- Lack of response to treatment

What to do:

1. Stay on the premises! Do not leave the farm unless absolutely necessary – and then only after thorough disinfection.
2. Contact the federal Assistant District Director (ADD) for your state or the State Veterinarian's office.
 - a. A list of the federal ADDs' contact numbers by state can be found at www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/banner/contactus/sa_animal_health/.
 - b. A list of State Veterinarians' contact numbers can be found at www.usaha.org/Portals/L/StateAnimalHealthOfficials.pdf.



What happens next:

1. The ADD will dispatch a Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) as quickly as possible to initiate an investigation. The ADD or State Animal Health Official will provide direction regarding your movements and information for you to convey to the staff and owners at the premises of concern. Your client will benefit from your interpretation and reassurance during this phase.
2. The FADD may set up an appointment to visit the premises, assess the disease situation, collect and submit laboratory samples, execute disease control actions if necessary, and file a report with the ADD.
3. The ADD will assign a priority level to the laboratory submissions which will govern the response of the federal lab(s).
4. Further actions may be taken at the discretion of the ADD in consultation with the FADD, State Veterinarian, and USDA Emergency Programs staff.
5. Laboratory results will be reported to the ADD who, in turn, will notify the State Veterinarian and the FADD. The FADD will then notify the practitioner and the owner.

It is important that you contact the ADD or State Veterinarian immediately if you suspect an FAD. To avoid laboratory contamination and possible disease spread, do not send samples to the diagnostic lab yourself.

USDA Emergency Contact: 800-940-6524