FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE
Pocket Guide
Feral Swine
Acknowledgements

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This set of photos was taken by the personnel at Plum Island Animal Disease Center. Infected animals were inoculated with foot and mouth disease (FMD) virus strain A24 Cruzeiro. The pigs depicted in the following photographs were allowed contact with infected animals 48 hours post-inoculation and remained with the inoculated animals for the duration.

Feral swine (Sus scrofa) populations in the United States are comprised of a continuum of genetic diversity ranging from escaped domestic pigs (Sus scrofa domesticus) to Eurasian wild boar (Sus scrofa scrofa) and the hybrids of these subspecies. The following series of photos represent clinical signs of FMD in hybridized feral swine whose genetics are very close to pure Eurasian wild boar heritage. Please note that feral swine may have thicker skin and darker pigmentation which makes vesicular lesions more difficult to detect than in their domestic swine counterparts.

If a case of FMD is suspected in wildlife, call the Wildlife Services Hotline (866) 4 USDA-WS or (866) 487-3297.
Feral Swine  Day 1

▲ No visible lesions.

▲ No visible lesions.
▲ No visible lesions.

▲ No visible lesions.
Feral Swine  Day 2

- No visible lesions.
- No visible lesions.
△ No visible lesions.

△ Small early vesicle on tongue edge.
Feral Swine  Day 3

▲ Blanched coronary band.

▲ Pale areas and swelling on the area of hoof pad.
Feral Swine Day 3

▲ Focal ulcer and adjacent early vesicle on the dorsal tongue.

▼ Blanched interdigital space.
Feral Swine Day 4

▲ Blanched coronary band.

▲ Raised pale area of hoof pad.
Feral Swine Day 4

▲ Focal ulcer and adjacent early vesicle on the dorsal tongue.

◄ Blanched interdigital space.
Feral Swine Day 6

▲ Vesicle at coronary band.
▲ Blanched hoof pad and coronary bands of dewclaws.
▲ Blanched tissue with erosions and vesicles on rostral area of tongue.

▼ Blanched interdigital space.
Feral Swine Day 7

- Vesicle at coronary band.
- Blanched hoof pad and coronary bands of dewclaws.
▲ Tongue with erosions and sloughing epithelium.

◄ Blanched interdigital space.
Feral Swine Day 12

▲ Crusting of coronary band.
▲ Blanched hoof pad.
Feral Swine Day 12

- No visible lesions.
- Rupture of skin in interdigital space.
Feral Swine  Day 19

▲ Ulceration and necrosis at coronary band with early sloughing of hoof.

▲ Extensive hoof pad ulceration with crusting.
No visible lesions.

Necrosis of interdigital space with ulceration and crusting.
Feral Swine  
Day 26

▲ Healing coronary band with new hoof growth.  
▲ Extensive hoof pad ulceration with crusting.
Ruptured vesicle on top of snout.

Healing of interdigital space.
Procedures to follow if you suspect a Foreign Animal Disease

1. Suspect FMD in feral swine.

   A pig that has any of the following:
   Vesicles, erosions or ulcerations on the mouth (snout, muzzle, tongue, dental pad, gum, cheek, hard palate, soft palate); and vesicles, erosions, ulcerations or sloughing of digital horn on at least one foot.

   Even though the lesions shown here are characteristic of FMD, the first visible sign may be as simple as a lame pig.

2. Make “the Call.”

   Call the Federal Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) for your state or your State Animal Health Official (SAHO). Contact information for your AVIC or SAHO can be obtained by calling (866) 536-7593 or visiting [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/contact-us](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/contact-us). You can also call the USDA Emergency number (800) 940-6524 (24 hours) for assistance. For assistance with feral swine related damage or disease issues, call Wildlife Services Hotline at (866) 487-3297.
3. Discuss How to Proceed

The SAHO or AVIC may require additional information before making the determination to begin a foreign animal disease field investigation. In some remote cases, the SAHO or AVIC may ask that you collect samples and send them to the laboratory, but this determination will be made only if you have the ability to adequately decontaminate the sample container, yourself, and all of your equipment before leaving the area. In most cases of a suspected foreign animal disease consistent with FMD, you will remain on site until appropriate biosecurity measures can be taken to prevent further spread of the suspected disease.

Some of the concerns you may discuss over the phone include:

- How were the feral swine captured and could the capture technique or length of time spent in the trap have contributed to the development of the suspect clinical signs?
- Are the feral swine alive or have they been euthanized?
- Are the feral swine exhibiting signs of lameness or other health problems?
- Are there livestock in the area?
- Are you on public or private land?
- Do you have the resources to allow you to stay on site until the investigation is completed?
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