

## Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)



### Preparing for clinical examination at an FMD suspected farm

- Always wear protective clothes, footwear and disposable gloves while examining suspected animals.
- Change gloves between the examinations, particularly if contaminated with saliva, nasal or eye discharge.
- Disinfect your hands, footwear, and outfit using any common disinfectant and when at home/ office wash the clothes at +60 °C.
- Separate susceptible animals from the rest of the herd, if possible.
- Inform the official veterinarian about the suspicion of FMD.

## How to conduct a clinical examination for foot-and- mouth disease



### 1. Observe

Start by examining all the animals from a distance.

Look for clinical signs such as depression, salivation, lameness or recumbency.



### 2. Take the history

Ask questions such as:

- What clinical signs have been noticed?
- When did the signs start?
- How many, and which, animals have been affected?
- Has there been any recent movement of animals to or from the premises?



### 3. Select

Prioritize animals with clinical signs and/or those suspected of being infected. It may be necessary to examine all the animals on the farm to find older lesions.



### 4. Document

It is important to keep good clinical records and where possible take photographs.

5

**Restrain**

FMD is painful, ensure the animal is adequately restrained (consider using a sedative and analgesia).

6

**Temperature**

Start by taking the animal's temperature. Reminder of normal temperature (C) ranges: Cattle 36,7-39,3. Sheep and goats: 38,5-39,9. Pigs: 38,7-39,8.

7

**Mouth**

Examine the muzzle, lips and dental pad. Then examine the tongue (you can grasp it with a piece of cloth). Ensure you examine underneath the tongue and along either side. Stroking or gently scratching the tongue can help identify early vesicles. This should be done last as it can be painful.

8

**Feet**

Clean the feet before examining them. Examine the interdigital cleft and under the foot. In small ruminants and in pigs, lesions are typically found on the coronary band (move hair) as well as in the interdigital space. The hoof may feel warm or be painful.

9

**Teats**

Don't forget to examine the udder and teats in female animals, this must be done with care as teat lesions can be



[fao.org/eufmd](http://fao.org/eufmd)

[eufmdlearning.works](http://eufmdlearning.works)

[EuFMD activities and tools](#)

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**Move FAST**  
Foot-and-mouth And Similar  
Transboundary animal diseases

**Dt**  
EuFMD digital  
transformation

**vlearning**  
EuFMD virtual learning



Sustainable Development Goals, UN-SDGs.  
EuFMD's programme focus



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Funded by  
the European Union