

JobAid

## Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)

# Clinical signs in sheep and goats



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### Signs

Signs can vary from inapparent, mild to severe, depending on the strain of the virus, exposure dose, species, breed, age, host immunity and trauma to the skin (which facilitates viral entry).

### Overall

In small ruminants, signs can be mild, and lesions can often go unrecognized.

Careful examination of both the mouths and feet of multiple animals within the herd may be necessary to identify animals with lesions. Look out for any lame animals.

### Clinical stage-lesions

- The formation of vesicles tends to be transient and erosions are shallow due to the relatively thin epithelium compared to cattle. They are usually located on the dental pad, inside of the lips, tongue (rarely), feet and teats.
- Lameness is often the first and only sign of the disease within the flock.
- Sudden death may occur in young animals, occasionally abortion and stillbirth may occur.
- Dairy animals may also experience a drop in milk production.

[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



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



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