

## Vesicular Stomatitis



**Photo:** USDA Photography Center, used with permission.

**CAUSE:** Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) is caused by an RNA virus. Its host range, in order of decreasing severity of disease, is horses, donkeys, mules, cattle, swine, and humans.

**EFFECTS:** The disease is characterized by vesicular lesions on the tongue, oral mucosa, teats, or coronary bands of horses, cattle, and swine. (This picture at left is actually of lesions of Foot and Mouth Disease [FMD]). FMD and VS cannot be distinguished by clinical signs alone.

**How is Vesicular Stomatitis spread?** VS can be spread by a number of insect vectors as well as mechanical transmission (through equipment used on more than one animal) and direct contact with affected animals.

**How can Vesicular Stomatitis be prevented?**

Follow all regulations for the importation of animals. Do not bring in animals from herds

known to have been affected with VS in the past three months. Vermont is currently free of this disease.

**Can Vesicular Stomatitis affect people?** People who handle infected animals also can become infected with VS by aerosol or direct contact. It causes an influenza-like illness in people.

**What if there is an outbreak?** Prevent contact between affected and non-affected animals, control insects to prevent vector transmission, and avoid fomite transmission through people or equipment. Proper disinfection of equipment will limit transmission.

**For more information on Vesicular Stomatitis see:**

[USDA APHIS Fact Sheet: Vesicular Stomatitis](#)

[The Merck Veterinary Manual: Vesicular Stomatitis](#)