

Animal disease

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is responsible for national coordination on animal health matters and for providing reports on Australia's animal health status, including regular reports to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the WHO.

The following sections contain information on significant animal disease events/issues in 2020. Australia publishes quarterly reports¹ and biennial reports² on animal health incidents and status, as well as providing emergency, six-monthly and annual reports to the OIE³. Australia's status for OIE-listed diseases for 2020 is shown in the table that follows. Diseases specific to aquatic animals can be found on the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's website (<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/animal/aquatic/reporting/reportable-diseases>).

Australia's status for OIE-listed diseases of terrestrial animals, 2020

¹ <https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/our-publications/animal-health-surveillance-quarterly/>

² <https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/our-publications/animal-health-in-australia-report/>

³ https://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Wahidhome/Home/indexcontent/newlang/en

Disease	Status	Date of last occurrence and notes
Multiple-species diseases		
Anthrax	Present	Limited distribution
Aujeszky's disease virus (Infection with)	Free	Never occurred
Bluetongue	Viruses present	Restricted to specific areas of Australia. Sentinel herd and vector monitoring programs are in place
<i>Brucella abortus</i> (Infection with)	Free	Australia declared freedom in 1989
<i>Brucella melitensis</i> (Infection with)	Free	
<i>Brucella suis</i> (Infection with)	Serological evidence	Maintained in feral pigs in New South Wales and Queensland. Rare occurrence in domestic pigs. Sporadic detections in pig-hunting dogs
Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever	Free	Never occurred
<i>Echinococcus granulosus</i> (Infection with)	Present	
<i>Echinococcus multilocularis</i> (Infection with)	Free	Never occurred
Epizootic haemorrhagic disease	Virus present	Disease has not been reported
Equine encephalomyelitis (eastern)	Free	Never occurred
Foot-and-mouth disease	Free	1872. Australia is officially recognised by the OIE as free without vaccination
Heartwater	Free	Never occurred
Japanese encephalitis	Serological evidence	Detected seasonally in Torres Strait, however no confirmed clinical cases since 2004
New World screw-worm fly (<i>Cochliomyia hominivorax</i>)	Free	Never occurred
Old World screw-worm fly (<i>Chrysomya bezziana</i>)	Free	Never occurred
Paratuberculosis	Present	National control and management programs are in place
Q fever	Present	
Rabies virus (Infection with)	Free	1867
Rift Valley fever virus (Infection with)	Free	Never occurred
Rinderpest virus (Infection with)	Free	1923. With the global eradication of rinderpest in 2011, all countries are free
Surra (<i>Trypanosoma evansi</i>)	Free	Never occurred

Disease	Status	Date of last occurrence and notes
<i>Trichinella</i> spp. (Infection with)	Not reported	<i>Trichinella spiralis</i> is not present. <i>T. pseudospiralis</i> is present in wildlife
Tularaemia	Present	Detected in archived samples (collected 2002) from Tasmanian ringtail possums
Vesicular stomatitis	Free	Never occurred
West Nile fever	Australian variants present	A previously unknown Australian strain of West Nile virus was identified following an outbreak of neurological disease in horses in 2011. No reported cases since 2011
Cattle diseases		
Bovine anaplasmosis	Present	Mainly in Northern Australia
Bovine babesiosis	Present	Mainly in Northern Australia
Bovine genital campylobacteriosis	Present	
Bovine spongiform encephalopathy	Free	Never occurred. National Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Freedom Assurance Program includes surveillance. Australia has official OIE 'negligible risk' status
Bovine tuberculosis	Free	Australia declared freedom in 1997. Last case in any species was reported in 2002
Bovine viral diarrhoea	Present	Bovine viral diarrhoea virus 1 (BVDV-1) is present. BVDV-2 has never occurred
<i>Mycoplasma mycoides</i> subsp. <i>mycoides</i> SC (Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia) (Infection with)	Free	1967. Australia declared freedom in 1973 and is officially recognised by the OIE as free
Enzootic bovine leucosis	Very low prevalence in beef cattle	Australian dairy herd achieved freedom from EBL on 31 December 2012
Haemorrhagic septicaemia	Free	Never occurred. Strains of <i>Pasteurella multocida</i> are present, but not the 6b or 6c strains that cause haemorrhagic septicaemia
Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis	Present	Bovine herpesvirus (BHV) 1.2b – present; BHV-1.1 and 1.2a – never occurred
Lumpy skin disease	Free	Never occurred
Theileriosis	Free	<i>Theileria parva</i> and <i>T. Annulata</i> are not present
Trichomonosis	Present	

Disease	Status	Date of last occurrence and notes
Trypanosomosis (tsetse borne)	Free	Never occurred
Sheep and goat diseases		
Caprine arthritis–encephalitis	Present	Voluntary accreditation schemes exist
Contagious agalactia	Not reported	<i>Mycoplasma agalactiae</i> has been isolated, but Australian strains do not produce agalactia in sheep
Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia	Free	Never occurred
<i>Chlamydophila abortus</i> (Enzootic abortion of ewes, ovine chlamydiosis) (Infection with)	Not reported	Never occurred
Maedi–visna	Free	Never occurred
Nairobi sheep disease	Free	Never occurred
Ovine epididymitis (<i>Brucella ovis</i>)	Present	Voluntary accreditation schemes exist in all states
Peste des petits ruminants (Infection with)	Free	Never occurred. Australia is officially recognised by the OIE as free
Salmonellosis (<i>Salmonella Abortusovis</i>)	Free	Never occurred. Surveillance has shown no evidence of infection in sheep
Scrapie	Free	1952. National Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Freedom Assurance Program includes surveillance
Sheep pox and goat pox	Free	Never occurred
Equine diseases		
African horse sickness virus (Infection with)	Free	Never occurred. Australia is officially recognised by the OIE as free
Contagious equine metritis	Free	1980
Dourine	Free	Never occurred
Equine encephalomyelitis (western)	Free	Never occurred
Equine infectious anaemia	Present	Limited distribution and sporadic occurrence
Equine influenza virus (Infection with)	Free	Australia declared freedom in 2008 according to the OIE standards
Equine piroplasmiasis	Free	1976
Equid herpesvirus-1 (Equine rhinopneumonitis) (Infection with)	Present	
Equine viral arteritis (Infection with)	Serological evidence	
Glanders	Free	1891

Disease	Status	Date of last occurrence and notes
Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis	Free	Never occurred
Swine diseases		
African swine fever	Free	Never occurred
Classical swine fever virus (Infection with)	Free	1962. Official freedom status is recognised by the OIE
Nipah virus encephalitis	Free	Never occurred
Porcine cysticercosis	Free	Never occurred
Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome	Free	Never occurred
Swine vesicular disease	Free	Never occurred
Transmissible gastroenteritis	Free	Never occurred
Avian diseases		
Avian chlamydiosis	Present	
Avian infectious bronchitis	Present	
Avian infectious laryngotracheitis	Present	
Avian mycoplasmosis (<i>Mycoplasma gallisepticum</i>)	Present	
Avian mycoplasmosis (<i>M. synoviae</i>)	Present	
Duck virus hepatitis	Free	Never occurred
Fowl typhoid	Free	1952
Highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (Infection with)	Free	2020 (Stamped out and freedom declared in February 2021, consistent with OIE requirements)
Infectious bursal disease (Gumboro disease)	Present (mild form)	Infectious bursal disease occurs in a mild form and was last reported in 2004. Very virulent strains are not present
Low pathogenicity notifiable avian influenza virus (poultry) (Infection with)	Occasional	2020 (Stamped out and previous status regained in February 2021)
Newcastle disease virus in poultry (Infection with)	Lentogenic viruses present	Virulent Newcastle disease last occurred in poultry in 2002. In August 2011, pigeon paramyxovirus not previously reported in Australia was detected in hobby pigeons in Victoria. Pigeon paramyxovirus is now endemic across Australia but has not spread to poultry
Pullorum disease	Not reported	Last reported in 1992. <i>Salmonella Pullorum</i> has been eradicated from commercial chicken flocks
Turkey rhinotracheitis	Free	Never occurred
Lagomorph diseases		

Disease	Status	Date of last occurrence and notes
Myxomatosis	Present	Used as a biological control agent for wild rabbits
Rabbit haemorrhagic disease	Present	Used as a biological control agent for wild rabbits
Bee diseases		
<i>Acarapis woodi</i> (Infestation of honey bees with)	Free	Never occurred
<i>Paenibacillus larvae</i> (American foulbrood) (Infection of honey bees with)	Present	
<i>Melissococcus plutonius</i> (European foulbrood) (Infection of honey bees with)	Present	
<i>Aethina tumida</i> (Small hive beetle) (Infestation with)	Present	Restricted distribution
<i>Tropilaelaps</i> spp. (Infestation of honey bees with)	Free	Never occurred
<i>Varroa</i> spp. (Varroosis) (Infestation of honey bees with)	Free	<i>In 2019, Varroa jacobsoni</i> was detected and eradicated in Townsville. The response to this incursion is currently in the proof-of-freedom phase, with ongoing surveillance efforts demonstrating no further evidence of the mite. <i>Varroa destructor</i> has never been reported in Australia. <i>V. destructor</i> was detected and destroyed on a ship from an overseas country during quarantine inspection (also see the plant pest list below).
Other diseases		
Camel pox	Free	Never occurred
Leishmaniosis	Australian variant, <i>Leishmania macropodum</i> , present	In 2019, <i>Leishmania infantum</i> was detected in a dog imported from Spain. Further investigation demonstrated no evidence of transmission. Cases of Australian variant, <i>Leishmania macropodum</i> , are rare.

Comments on selected OIE-listed diseases

Anthrax

Anthrax is on the list of nationally notifiable diseases and is subject to compulsory government controls, including quarantine, disposal of carcasses, and vaccination and tracing of at-risk animals and their products. Incidents of anthrax in Australian livestock occur sporadically and generally in a defined geographical region confined to the northern and north-eastern districts of Victoria up to Central New South Wales. Anthrax is detected occasionally in southern Queensland. Anthrax has never been recorded in the Northern Territory. South

Australia's and Tasmania's last recorded anthrax outbreaks were in 1914 and 1933 respectively. The last case in Western Australia was an isolated case in 1994. A terrestrial animal case of anthrax occurred in New South Wales in 2020. Anthrax is considered a Tier 1 Security Sensitive Biological Agent in Australia and is subject to requirements under the *National Health Security Act 2007*.