

17/12/2024

CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER BULLETIN

Japanese Encephalitis Detected in Feral Pigs Western NSW

Japanese Encephalitis has been detected in feral pigs in Tomingley, near Dubbo.

- NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (NSW DPIRD) has confirmed the detection of Japanese encephalitis in feral pigs in Tomingley, near Dubbo.
- Samples taken from deceased feral pigs were tested at Elizabeth Macarthur Agriculture Institute this week, confirming the presence of Japanese Encephalitis.
- These samples were collected as part of the NSW DPIRD feral pig surveillance program.
- This detection follows previous detections of Japanese encephalitis in mosquitos near Griffith on the 3th of December 2024 as part of the NSW Health arbovirus monitoring program.
- Japanese encephalitis virus is a mosquito-borne viral disease, which is maintained in the environment by transmission cycles involving *Culex* sp. mosquitoes, certain species of wild and domestic birds. Pigs are a known amplifying host of the Japanese encephalitis virus.
- Japanese encephalitis is associated with reproductive failure in pigs, including still births, abortion, mummified piglets. Boars may be infertile (temporarily or permanently). Piglets up to 6-months of age may show neurological signs.
- Horses may become infected, but they do not spread the virus to other animals or people as they are a dead-end host. Most infected horses do not develop clinical signs. Those that do, show neurological signs (e.g., incoordination, impaired vision) that range from mild to severe and may be fatal.
- People may also become infected resulting in encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and death in severe cases. People become infected with Japanese encephalitis by being bitten by an infected mosquito.
- Japanese encephalitis is a notifiable disease in NSW. If you suspect Japanese encephalitis in your animals contact your local district veterinarian on 1300 295 299 (business hours) or the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 (24-hours a day).
- NSW DPIRD is encouraging people to protect their animals using the guidance documents listed below.
- For further information on JE virus and ways to protect yourself visit [mosquito borne diseases](#).

Additional Information regarding Japanese encephalitis and animals

- NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development web page- [Japanese Encephalitis](#)
- Farm Biosecurity- Integrated mosquito management- [Integrated Mosquito Management Principles for Piggeries](#)
- Farm Biosecurity- Mosquito management for horses- [JE Mosquito Management for Horses](#)

Additional Information regarding JE and people

- NSW Health- Japanese encephalitis- [Japanese encephalitis virus](#)
- NSW Health- Arbovirus monitoring program- [NSW Arbovirus Surveillance and Mosquito Monitoring 2024-2025](#)

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