

Do not supply prohibited food waste to pigs

Information for food outlets

Food waste containing meat or other animal by-products must not be fed to pigs as it may contain viruses that cause diseases in animals, such as foot-and-mouth disease. These viruses are not destroyed by chilling, freezing, curing or cooking.

Currently, Australia is free of foot-and-mouth disease but food waste containing this virus may be illegally imported into Australia, undetected by quarantine. Banning the feeding of prohibited food waste to pigs provides an important defence against the introduction of this disease to Australia.

In 2001, the United Kingdom had an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease which resulted from food waste being fed to pigs. 6,500,000 animals were slaughtered as a consequence. If such an outbreak was to occur in Australia, the cost to the economy is estimated to be up to \$50 billion over a decade, and the flow-on effects are likely to have a major impact on the viability of food outlets.

The penalty for feeding prohibited food waste or supplying it to a piggery is \$17,500

The Livestock Disease Control Act 1994 makes it illegal to feed prohibited food waste to pigs or to supply it to a piggery.

If you are caught supplying or feeding this food waste to pigs you will be prosecuted and face a fine of up to \$17,500.

Food waste that must not be fed to pigs

Meat, meat by-products, milk products and food of non-animal origin that has been on the same plate as meat, or has been in contact with meat is prohibited.

Examples include:

- vegetables, rice, pasta and any other food of non-animal origin that has been in direct contact with meat
- pizza bun rolls, meat pies
- bacon and cheese rolls, salad rolls containing meat
- Caesar salad (because it contains bacon pieces)
- steak, hamburgers, sausages, butcher's shop waste
- milk products such as butter and cheese.

Responsible disposal of food waste

Businesses that prepare and sell food (e.g. restaurants, bakeries, hotels, fast food outlets, hospitals), have a responsibility to dispose of food waste appropriately.

Prohibited food waste should be placed in an appropriate garbage bin for collection by the council or commercial waste service for disposal in landfill or composting at an appropriate recycling facility.

Illegal activities include:

- feeding prohibited food waste to pigs
- supplying prohibited food waste to feed pigs
- collecting prohibited food waste from food premises to provide to a piggery

If you know someone who may be doing any of these things you must report this activity to the Department of Environment and Primary Industries immediately on 136 186 to help ensure Australia's disease-free status.

www.vic.gov.au/pighealth

Published by the Victorian Government Department of Environment and Primary Industries Melbourne, August 2013
© The State of Victoria Department of Environment and Primary Industries Melbourne 2013

ISBN 978-1-74287-486-7 (print)
ISBN 978-1-74326-485-0 (pdf)

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

