

## What happens if Dourine is confirmed

If Dourine is confirmed, the following measures will apply:

- Movement of equidae to and from the holding will be restricted
- Movements to another EU Member State are prohibited for up to 6 months after the last possible contact with a sick animal (or in the case of stallions, until the animal has been castrated)

The effect on trade with countries outside the EU will depend on the animal health requirements of the relevant country.

## Measures that you can take to protect your animals

- Fully comply with legislation when importing animals
- Isolate imported animals
- Monitor your animals carefully
- If your animals are unwell, contact your private veterinary practitioner

In the event of an outbreak, further information will be provided on the Department of Agriculture's website at: [www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

Photo acknowledgement:  
Cover - Sean Ashe

Information on Dourine August 2011

# Dourine



## Information Leaflet for Horse Owners

[www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)



## Introduction

The purpose of this information leaflet is to increase industry awareness about Dourine. This is a venereal disease of equidae, caused by the protozoan *Trypanosoma equiperdum*. Dourine does not affect humans.

## Geographical distribution of the disease

Dourine has never been recorded in Ireland. The disease occurs in most of Asia, northern and southern Africa, Russia, parts of the Middle East, South America and south-eastern Europe. The disease was confirmed in Italy in May 2011.

## Methods of transmission

The main method of transmission of Dourine is from animal to animal during breeding. Rarely, foals may be infected via the conjunctiva during parturition or by drinking milk from an infected dam, and may then transmit disease when they are sexually mature.

## Affected species

Dourine can infect horses, mules and donkeys.

## Possible routes of introduction

The main route by which Dourine could be introduced into Ireland would be by importing an infected animal.

## Clinical signs

The severity and duration of disease are very variable. A chronic, mild form may persist for several years. Subclinical infection can also occur, and donkeys and mules in particular may remain carriers. The disease is often fatal. In fatal cases the disease is usually slow and progressive, with the appetite remaining good almost throughout.

### The most common clinical signs are:

- High temperature
- Swelling of the genitalia and mammary glands
- Raised plaques on the skin
- Knuckling of the joints, in-coordination and unilateral facial paralysis
- Progressive weight loss and emaciation, in some cases leading to weakness, lameness and staggering

## What to do if you suspect disease

Dourine is a **notifiable** disease. Any suspicions of the disease must be reported immediately to the local District Veterinary Office (see list of local offices under “Contact Us” on the Department of Agriculture’s website at: [www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)). Horse owners should familiarise themselves with the clinical signs of the disease. In the event of suspicion, equidae must not be moved to or from the premises until blood sample results have ruled out the disease. The movement of equine carcasses, animal products, semen, ova, embryos, faeces, animal waste or equipment used in connection with animals to or from the premises may only take place under licence.