



Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA**



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ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/29

DOG AND CAT IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS

RELEASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES PAPER

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with the *Technical Issues Paper* (Attachment A) for the dog and cat import risk analysis (IRA), for consideration and comment. Comments are due by 4 January 2002.

Biosecurity Australia last revised conditions for the importation of dogs and cats in 1995, following the then Bureau of Resource Sciences' 1993 working paper on quarantine policy for dogs and cats. Animal Quarantine Policy Memorandum (AQPM) 1995/68 advised stakeholders of the revised conditions (including formatted Veterinary certificates) for the importation of dogs and cats from:

- approved rabies-free countries, (ie. Category 2).
- approved rabies-free island countries, (ie. Category 3).
- approved countries where dog-mediated rabies is absent or well controlled, (ie. Category 4).

Subsequently quarantine conditions were developed for the importation of dogs and cats from countries where dog mediated rabies is endemic (Category 5 - AQPM 1996/33 and 41) and conditions for the importation of disability assistance dogs (AQPM 2000/22).

In early 1999, Animal Biosecurity (then Animal Quarantine Policy Branch of AQIS) advised of the commencement of an IRA of dogs and cats to review the policy in light of recent scientific advances. AQPM 1999/18 sought public comment on the proposed routine approach. Most stakeholders who responded agreed that a routine approach was appropriate and this was subsequently confirmed in AQPM 1999/53.

Progress of the IRA has been delayed as resources were required to manage higher priority issues, such as the importation of animals for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and more recently the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the United Kingdom.

The attached *Technical Issues Paper* is intended to promote discussion and comment on the main pest and disease risk issues. The paper identifies 55 hazardous disease agents and parasites to be considered further in the IRA. It does not discuss risk management issues that will be addressed in the next



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consultation step, the draft IRA paper. Animal Biosecurity will take into account stakeholder comments on the *Technical Issues Paper* as it develops the draft IRA report. The IRA will consider recent scientific developments with respect to rabies and other diseases, including changes to the OIE Code Chapter and developments in treatments and testing for those diseases of quarantine concern. The addition of countries to the list of approved countries that can export dogs and cats to Australia will depend upon the outcome of the IRA.

Next Steps

I would appreciate receiving your comments, supported by scientific references, if available, by 4 January 2002. Animal Biosecurity will consider all technical comments received and these will be taken into account in preparing the draft IRA report.

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1982 and the Privacy Act 1988, all submissions received in response to Animal Biosecurity Policy Memoranda will be publicly available. Comments may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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