



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



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ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/50

AMENDMENT OF SOME ZOO ANIMAL IMPORT POLICIES

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with Australia's proposed amended quarantine requirements for the importation of a range of zoo animals. The amendments have been effected primarily to update contact details for Environment Australia, references to the OIE Code and post-import arrangements. We would welcome comments by 3 January 2003.

This ABPM provides proposed amended quarantine requirements for

- . non-human primates (Attachment A)
- . zoo carnivores other than felids (Attachment B)
- . reptiles other than crocodylians (Attachment C)
- . live crocodylians, crocodylian eggs (Attachment D)
- . marsupials and monotremes (Attachment E)
- . non-domestic felids (Attachment F) and
- . pinnipeds (Attachment G).

The protocols have been updated and reformatted as follows:

- . the current contact details for Environment Australia (EA). All current protocols for zoo animals and wildlife make reference to the need to obtain permission to import from EA and their contact details are provided in the protocols.
- . reference to an *international veterinary certificate*. This is the term now used by the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) in the OIE International Animal Health Code (the Code) and replaces references to an 'Animal Health Certificate'.
- . removal of references to the Chief Quarantine Officer (Animals), a title that no longer applies.
- . removal of references in post-arrival requirements to Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) registered zoos and/or A class zoos. Zoos and circuses are no longer registered by AQIS and the classification of zoos and circuses as A or B class is no longer valid, at least under Commonwealth quarantine legislation. The protocols require post-arrival quarantine to be undertaken in 'quarantine approved premises', and the release of animals from quarantine will be to premises approved by State or Territory agencies and EA.



Edmund Barton Building
Barton ACT
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
ph +61 2 6272 3933
fax +61 2 6272 5161
www.affa.gov.au

ABN 24 113 085 695

in some protocols, the addition of an introductory section describing the scope of the amended conditions detailing what may and may not be imported.

The amendments have been effected primarily to address these aspects. However, the opportunity has been taken to make some other changes. Background to the protocols and details of the other amendments to each of the protocols follow.

A. Non-human primates

Interim conditions for the importation of primates were introduced in December 1996 to replace Permit conditions that were inadequate. These conditions will apply until completion of the current import risk analysis (IRA). Progress on the IRA was considerably delayed as resources were devoted to other priorities. We expect to circulate a technical issues paper soon. Completion of the IRA and the consequent implementation of new policy is still some time away and an update of the interim requirements is considered warranted to bring them into line with Code recommendations.

The conditions have been re-formatted using the Code Chapter 2.10.1., Zoonoses Transmissible from Non-human Primates, as a model.

Two sets of requirements are now included: one for marmosets and tamarins, and one for other non-human primates. This is as recommended in Code Chapter 2.10.1.. Pre-export testing for tuberculosis and hepatitis-B is not required for marmosets and tamarins but is required for other non-human primates. Post-arrival testing for pathogenic enteric bacteria and testing and treatment for parasites is recommended, in accordance with Code chapter 2.10.1., recommendations.

OIE Code guidelines for post-arrival quarantine and occupational health and safety have been appended to the protocol and it is required that the management and design of, and human and animal care arrangements at, quarantine approved premises will be in accordance with these.

B. Zoo carnivores other than felids

Interim conditions/ quarantine requirements for the importation of zoo carnivores were implemented in January 1997. As with primates, the intention was to quickly replace inadequate Permit conditions, and to apply these until a more thorough IRA was completed. Subsequently, it was decided to do separate IRAs for different Families of carnivores. One of these, for Felidae, has been completed and quarantine requirements came into force on 29 April 2002.

Veterinary certification requirements remain as in the 1997 protocol with the following change. The requirement that the premises of origin be inspected by a veterinarian approved by AQIS (introduced in April this year) has been replaced by requirements that the premises of origin is under permanent veterinary supervision and has a suitable health monitoring program in place, and that a description of this is supplied.

It is planned that IRAs on non-domestic mustelids and non-domestic canids be conducted in due course but neither is likely to be commenced in the near future.

C. Reptiles other than crocodilians

Interim conditions/quarantine requirements for the importation of reptiles were implemented in February 1997. Similarly with primates and carnivores, the intention was to quickly replace inadequate Permit conditions, and to apply these until a more thorough IRA was completed. The IRA was subsequently separated into Orders and Sub-Orders of reptiles. One of these, for Crocodylia, has been completed. Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Live Captive Crocodilians, and Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Crocodilian Eggs came into force on 29 February 2000.

An IRA on snakes (Sub-Order Serpentes) is progressing – a technical issues paper will be circulated soon. An IRA on tortoises and turtles (Order Chelonia) will be conducted in due course. The amended conditions will apply until completion of at least one of those IRAs or until further amendments are deemed necessary.

D. Live crocodilians and crocodilian eggs

Quarantine Conditions for the Importation of Live Captive Crocodiles and Quarantine Conditions for the Importation of Crocodilian Eggs were implemented on 29 February 2000.

E. Marsupials and monotremes

Interim Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Marsupials and Monotremes were implemented on 5 July 1999. As with the other interim conditions, the intention was to replace inadequate Permit conditions, and to apply these until a more thorough IRA was completed. An IRA was commenced but progress has stalled as resources have been devoted to other priorities.

F. Non-domestic felids

Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Non-Domestic Felidae into Zoos and Circuses came into force on 29 April 2002.

In consultation with AQIS it has been agreed to simplify and better explain the post-arrival quarantine arrangements. The amended conditions require all felids imported under these conditions to undergo 30 days post-arrival quarantine before release under quarantine surveillance. This renders superfluous the certification requirements for *Yersinia pestis* as there is no advantage in animals being certified as from a country free from *Yersinia pestis* infection. The certification requirement has therefore been deleted.

Animals released under quarantine surveillance do not have to be held in a quarantine approved premises as this would, effectively, amount to full quarantine. It is now required, in this and other updated protocols for exotic animals, that the animals be released from quarantine, either fully or under quarantine surveillance, into premises approved by the appropriate State or Territory government for holding the species imported, subject to meeting EA and CITES requirements.

G. Pinnipeds

Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Pinnipeds came into force on 18 September 2000. Certification requirements are unaltered.

Next Steps

Biosecurity Australia would welcome your comments on the attached amended conditions by 3 January 2003. We will take into account stakeholder comments as we finalise the conditions in early in the new year.

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should get in touch with the contact officer (details below).

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 and 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.

DAVID BANKS
General Manager
Animal Biosecurity

Contact officer: Bernard Robinson
Telephone no: (02) 6272 5446
Facsimile no: (02) 6272 3399
E-mail: bernard.robinson@affa.gov.au