



AFFA03/4962

14 August 2003

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2003/20

AMENDMENT OF SOME ZOO ANIMAL IMPORT POLICIES

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with Australia's amended quarantine requirements for the importation of a range of zoo animals. Proposed amended requirements were circulated for stakeholder comment in December 2002. The amended requirements will apply from 12 September 2003.

ABPM 2002/50 of 4 December 2002 provided stakeholders with proposed amended quarantine requirements for non-human primates, zoo carnivores other than felids, reptiles other than crocodylians, live crocodylians and crocodylian eggs, marsupials and monotremes, non-domestic felids and pinnipeds for comment. The amendments were proposed primarily to update contact details for Environment Australia, references to the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) Code and post-import arrangements. Some other changes were made, particularly to formatting. The interim requirements for non-human primates were more extensively reviewed to reflect OIE Code recommendations.

Useful comments were received from a number of stakeholders and these have been considered in finalising the protocols.

Attached to this ABPM are the following finalised protocols:

- Interim Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Zoo Carnivores
- Interim Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Reptiles
- Interim Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Marsupials
- Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Non-Domestic Felidae
- Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Pinnipeds.

The amended requirements will come into effect from 12 September 2003.

Interim quarantine requirements for the importation of non-human primates, and quarantine requirements for the importation of crocodiles and crocodile eggs will be finalised and circulated soon as will updated protocols for the importation of zoo perissodactyls from the United States of America and the European Union.

The following changes have been effected to the drafts circulated under ABPM 2002/50 and these changes are incorporated in the Attachments.

The protocols for marsupials, felids and pinnipeds have been re-formatted and are now in the same format as, and have common general requirements with, the protocols for carnivores and reptiles. This means that, among other things, contact details for the Australian Quarantine and Inspection

Service (AQIS) are provided in all protocols, and all now require the premises of origin be under veterinary supervision and to have a suitable health-monitoring program in place. As the latter is to be certified, the requirement for a separate description of the program has been dropped.

Other common provisions are that all animals imported under these protocols must be individually identified with an ISO-compliant electronic microchip and the details recorded on the veterinary certificate, and advice is included that permission to introduce and keep exotic animals must be obtained from the appropriate State or Territory Agency.

It has been decided that animals imported under 'interim' requirements should remain under quarantine surveillance for at least two years after importation and then released from Commonwealth quarantine control if free from suspicion of a quarantinable disease. The post-entry quarantine provisions for carnivores, reptiles and marsupials have been amended accordingly.

The following changes have been made to specific protocols.

Reptiles

At the request of stakeholders, the period of pre-export residency in the premises of origin has been reviewed. The new protocol specifies a minimum of 90 days rather than 12 months. To provide equivalent quarantine security to the current protocol, the period of pre-export isolation from other reptiles not of the same health status has been increased from 30 days to 90 days and the period of post-arrival quarantine has also been increased from 30 days to 90 days.

The requirement relating to Eastern and Western equine encephalomyelitis has been reviewed. The measures are considered unwarranted and have been deleted.

Marsupials and monotremes

As monotremes are not phylogenetically close to marsupials, and as there is almost no demand for their importation, they are no longer eligible for importation under this protocol.

Non-domestic felids

In re-formatting the protocol, the opportunity has been taken to review the requirements with the intention of bringing quarantine controls more in line with other zoo animal protocols.

All animals must undergo 30 days pre-export isolation. This removes the need for certification of country freedom from Nipah virus. As there is no evidence of long-term infection with Nipah virus, the requirement to test has also been dropped. It also removes, given the requirement for certified freedom from disease in the source animals, the need for a vaccination option for canine distemper. Some stakeholders argued that vaccination is not a sound option.

Certification of country freedom from glanders, as an option to certification of premises freedom, has been deleted as unnecessary.

Vaccination against the endemic cat viral diseases rhinotracheitis, calicivirus and panleucopaenia is no longer required; a note recommending vaccination has been substituted.

Pinnipeds

Testing for phocine distemper is now required on two occasions. This is to avoid the unnecessary disqualification of uninfected sero-positive animals; animals positive to the first test remain eligible if there is no significant increase in titre at a second test at least 14 days later.

Testing for phocine herpesvirus is also required on two occasions. This is to increase the sensitivity of testing and to avoid the situation that animals are disqualified due to being found positive toward the end of the 120 day pre-export isolation period.

Next Steps

Biosecurity Australia and AQIS have agreed that these amended requirements should come into effect from 12 September 2003.

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 ABPMs 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