



27 August 2003

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2003/23

NONHUMAN PRIMATES – AMENDMENTS TO INTERIM QUARANTINE CONDITIONS

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with amended interim quarantine conditions for the importation of nonhuman primates (Attachment A). The requirements have been finalised after considering stakeholder comments on the second draft circulated under ABPM 2003/13. Unless there is comment that warrants further change, these requirements will come into effect on 26 September 2003.

Attached to this ABPM are finalised amended interim quarantine conditions for the importation of nonhuman primates.

A draft set of conditions was one of a number of proposed amended quarantine requirements for the importation of a range of zoo animals circulated under ABPM 2002/50 of 4 December 2002. A number of stakeholders commented on these proposals. In light of those comments, another draft was circulated for stakeholder consideration and comment under ABPM 2003/13 of 29 April 2003.

A number of stakeholders commented on the April draft conditions. Biosecurity Australia has taken these comments into consideration in finalising the attached conditions. The final conditions differ from the draft circulated in April in the following:

- A single protocol replaces separate protocols for marmosets and tamarins, and other nonhuman primates.
- Pre-export testing for tuberculosis is required for all nonhuman primates and the testing requirement is more specific.
- Testing of macaques for herpes B virus and gibbons and great apes for hepatitis B virus is no longer mandatory.
- Individual identification using an ISO-compliant microchip is required.
- Treatment with broad-spectrum parasiticides is specified.
- Recommendations relating to testing (of gibbons and great apes) for hepatitis B, culture for enteric pathogens, additional testing and treatments for parasites, and precautionary occupational health and safety measures, are separated from the protocol proper and are provided as an addendum.

The interim requirements are only to apply until completion of the nonhuman primates Import Risk Analysis (IRA) currently being undertaken and the consequent adoption of a new policy. As part of the IRA, we circulated for comment a Technical Issues Paper (ABPM 2003/08 of 20 March 2003) that identified the main pest and diseases. Biosecurity Australia is considering stakeholder comments on the Technical Issues Paper as we develop the draft IRA report, the next consultation step. This report will be circulated for 60 days public comment.

Next Steps

Unless there is comment that warrants further change, these interim requirements will come into effect from 26 September 2003. Thank you to those stakeholders who contributed to the review of these conditions.

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