

## EXPORT OF CATS AND DOGS FROM GREAT BRITAIN TO COLOMBIA

### NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

#### **IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The Notes for Guidance (NFG) should have been issued to you together with export certificate 3896EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 3896EHC. We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

#### **1. SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS**

- Import permit from the Colombian Agriculture Institute;
- Export health certificate issued by DEFRA;
- Animals must be examined by the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN, not more than 96 hours prior to export;
- Animals must have been resident in the UK for at least six months prior to export, or since birth;

#### **2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)**

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government or Welsh Government, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

#### **Certified Copy Requirements - England, Wales and Scotland**

Guidance concerning return of certified copies of EHCs has changed and only specific certified copies are required to be returned to the APHA. Certifying OVs must return a certified copy of EHCs only for the following EHC types:

- if the exported commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids;
- if the certificate was applied for manually and the application documents have been emailed to APHA and not applied for via the Exports Health Certificates Online (EHCO) system.

Certified copies should be emailed on the day of signature to the Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC) at the following address: [certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk](mailto:certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk).

For certificates that have been issued to the Certifying OV via the EHCO system, the Certifying OV must complete the certifier portal with the status of the certificate and the date of signature.

A copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified must be retained for two years.

Certifying OVs are not required to return certified copies of other EHCs issued, however CITC may request certified copies of EHCs and supporting documentation in order to complete Quality Assurance checks or if an issue arises with the consignment after certification.

#### **3. IMPORT PERMIT**

No dog or cat may be imported into Colombia except in accordance with the terms of an import permit. The permit must be obtained from the co-ordinator of the Animal Inspection and Quarantine Unit, Colombian Agriculture Institute, Santefe de Bogota, Colombia.

#### **4. RABIES VACCINATION**

The Colombian Institute of Agriculture do not require animals to be vaccinated against rabies. However, if vaccine is administered, it must be done not less than 30 days and not more than 12 months prior to export. The vaccination certificate should be attached to the Export Health Certificate.

5. RESIDENCY IN GREAT BRITAIN

A written declaration must be given to the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN confirming that the animals have been resident in the UK for the previous 6 months or since birth.

6. TRAVELLING THROUGH OTHER COUNTRIES

It is the responsibility of the exporter/agent to apply to the relevant authorities of any transit countries for permission to transport the animals through these countries. Additional health certification may be necessary.

7. VACCINATIONS

Before signing the export health certificate, the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN must be satisfied that the necessary vaccinations have been carried out. If vaccinations are carried out by another veterinary surgeon, the owner/exporter should provide evidence in the form of certificates. Vaccination certificates must be attached to the export health certificate.

8. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS may certify country freedom from rabies providing written authority to do so has been obtained from the issuing office on form 618NDC.

9. **WELFARE DURING TRAVEL**

Exporters and transporters must comply with all the legislation for the welfare of live animals during transport. The welfare conditions required during transport, are set out in Council Regulation EC No 1/2005 (as retained), implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, with parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales.

If transported by air, animals should also be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Information about welfare during transport in Great Britain and the necessary requirements can be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency: Welfare in Transport Team

Centre for International Trade

Eden Bridge House

Lowther Street, Carlisle

CA3 8DX

Phone: +44 (0) 3000 200 301

E-mail: [WIT@apha.gov.uk](mailto:WIT@apha.gov.uk)

10. **DISCLAIMER**

This certificate is provided on the basis of information available at the time, and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country. It is the exporter's responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country. If these do not match, the exporter should contact the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>