

EXPORT OF CATS AND DOGS FROM UNITED KINGDOM TO GHANA

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

These notes provide guidance for the exporter. We cannot guarantee that they are correct. 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. Associated Documents: 3901EHC, 618NDC and 372DMR.

1) SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Certificate 3901EHC may be used for the export of cats and dogs to Ghana.

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, Welsh Government or the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Northern Ireland, 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.

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.

DAERA Export Health Certificates: Provision of certified copies

aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates must return a legible, scanned copy of the final EHC to the relevant DAERA Processing Office within 1 working day of signing.

Good quality photographic copies will be accepted by the department, where obtaining a scanned copy is not feasible - for example, where 'on site' certification is undertaken and scanning facilities are not available.

For record purposes, a copy of the final Export Health Certificate and associated Support documents should be retained by the aPVP for a period of 2 years from the date of certification.

The Department will carry out periodic audits of all aspects of export certification to ensure that a high standard of certification is being maintained.

3) SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS

- Application for importation to the Agricultural Ministry in Ghana;
- Export health certificate issued by DEFRA UK;
- Animals must be examined by the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN, not more than 48 hours prior to export;
- Owner's declaration regarding residency of the animal in the six months prior to export, or since birth;
- Vaccination of animals against rabies not more than 6 months prior to export.

4) IMPORT PERMIT

Notice of the intended importation of cats and dogs must be given to the Chief Veterinary Officer, Animal Health Division, Ministry of Agriculture, P O Box m.161, Ministry Branch Post Office, Accra, Ghana at least 4 weeks before the expected arrival of the animals in Ghana. A permit to import may then be issued by the Director of the Veterinary Service in Ghana.

In order to obtain an import permit, any pet dog being exported to Ghana should be tested for the following diseases:

5) TESTING REQUIREMENTS

DISEASE	TEST REQUIRED
Brucella canis	Serum Agglutination OR Giemsa smear
Babesia Gibsoni	Giemsa smear
Dirofilaria immitis	Microfilaria filtration test
Leishmania spp.	Indirect fluorescent antibody test or
	ELISA or Direct Agglutination test

Current information is that an import permit would only be issued on evidence that the results of the above tests are all negative.

***Note:** Trypanosoma evansi - has not been recorded in the United Kingdom during the past 2 years.

6) VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

Evidence must be provided that the dog has been vaccinated against the following disease organisms:

- Canine Distemper
- Hepatitis
- Parvovirus
- Leptospira canicola and Leptospira icterohaemorrhagiae
- Parainfluenza

7) RABIES VACCINATION

The veterinary authorities in Ghana require vaccination of animals against rabies not more than 6 months prior to export. A rabies vaccination certificate must be completed by the veterinary surgeon who administers the vaccine. It should be attached to the export health certificate. The use of rabies vaccination is not generally permitted in the United Kingdom but arrangements have been made for

rabies vaccine to be available for those animals intended for export.

OVs must be satisfied that the appropriate vaccinations has been carried out. If necessary, exporters should provide evidence in the form of certificate completed by the veterinary surgeon who administered the vaccine.

8) OWNER'S DECLARATION REGARDING RESIDENCY

We understand that the veterinary authorities in Ghana require a written declaration from the owner or exporter stating the address at which the animal was kept during the six months immediately prior to the date of shipment. The declaration must be attached to the export health certificate.

9) NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Paragraphs IV (c) and (d) refer: These paragraphs may be certified by the OV on behalf of the Department provided written authority from your form 618NDC.

10) WELFARE

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

Or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.

11. 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 or DAERA, via the link or e-mail address below:

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

DAERA - Email: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk