

EXPORT OF CATS AND DOGS FROM GREAT BRITAIN TO MALAWI

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 3944EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 3944EHC. 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 Chief Veterinary Officer in Malawi;
- Export health certificate issued by DEFRA UK;
- Animals must be examined by the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN, not more than 14 days prior to export;
- Vaccination against rabies not less than 1 month and not more than 12 months prior to export or rabies vaccination on arrival in Malawi.

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 the Welsh Government, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation, or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs - Northern Ireland (DAERA).

OVs/AVIs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/AVI stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the issuing office (in GB - the Centre for International Trade, Carlisle) within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland, to DAERA, Dundonald House, Belfast.

The OV/AVI should keep a copy for his/her own records.

3. IMPORT PERMIT

No animal may be imported into Malawi except in accordance with the conditions stated in an import permit.

Import permits must be obtained from the Chief Veterinary Officer, P O Box 30372, Lilongwe, Malawi.

4. RABIES VACCINATION

The veterinary authorities in Malawi do not require dogs from Great Britain (which is a rabies-free country) to be vaccinated prior to export. But, if not vaccinated prior to export, they must on arrival be presented to the veterinary authorities in Malawi for vaccination. Dogs under 12 weeks of age should not be vaccinated against rabies prior to export but will need to be presented to the veterinary authorities in Malawi for vaccination when they reach that age.

Cats must be vaccinated against rabies prior to export.

If animals are to be vaccinated against rabies prior to export, this must be carried out not less than 30 days, and not more than 12 months prior to export. The vaccine must be flury strain avianised vaccine.

A certificate of vaccination must accompany the health certificate. The certificate must contain a description of the animal, the batch number of the vaccine and the name of the production laboratory.

5. CONTACT WITH RABID ANIMALS

The veterinary authorities in Malawi require certification that the animal(s) to be export has/have not been in contact with a rabid animal in the 6 months prior to export. Owners/agents must provide the certifying

OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN with a declaration to this effect.

6. **TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**

In the case of travel by sea, a certificate must be provided, signed by the Master of the ship in which the dog has travelled, stating that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, it has not been in contact with any other animal en route. There is no standard format for the certificate.

In the case of travel by air, the date of arrival and the flight number of the aircraft must be reported prior to despatch to the Chief Veterinary Officer, Lilongwe 3, Milawi.

7. **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.

8. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS may certify country freedom from rabies provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the local Animal Health Divisional Office on form EC618.

9. **WELFARE DURING TRAVEL**

Welfare conditions during transport are laid down by Council Regulation EC 1/2005, implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, and parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Exporters must comply with the UK welfare laws relating to the export of animals. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Further information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Animal Welfare Team at any of the offices mentioned below:

England, Scotland & Wales

Welfare in Transport Team at the APHA Centre for International Trade - Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

Northern Ireland

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw, Belfast, BT4 3SB.

DAERA Helpline number 0300 200 7852.

DAERA Helpline email daerahelpline@daera-ni.gov.uk

DAERA Textphone 18001 0300 200 7852

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 Centre for International Trade - Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening>