

EXPORT OF FERRETS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 4636EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 4636EHC. 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. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 4636EHC may be used for the export of ferrets from the United Kingdom to the Republic of South Africa.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

This certificate may be signed by a Local Veterinary Inspector appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD), National Assembly For Wales Agricultural Department (NAWAD) or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland (DARDNI), who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes. OVs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any colour OTHER THAN BLACK.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the local Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM) or Divisional Veterinary Officer in NI (DVO-NI) within seven days of issue. OVs should keep copies for record purposes.

3. IMPORT PERMIT

Paragraph II refers. The importation of ferrets is subject to obtaining an import permit. This permit must accompany the animal. Failure to comply with any stipulated condition can lead to refusal of entry. The Department of Agriculture may make a charge for the import permit. Details should be obtained from:

The Director of Animal Health,

Import/Export Control, Private Bag X138 Pretoria, 0001, South Africa.

Fax: 011-27-12-329-8292

Permit Office tel.: 011-27-12-319-7514, -7414, or -7415

NOTE: The South African import permit contains a model health certificate (IMP.CARNIVORES.RB.01/05). OVs **ARE NOT** required to complete or sign the South African model because the official health certificate 4636EHC replaces it.

4. OWNER/EXPORTER'S DECLARATION

Paragraph V (a) and (j) refer. These paragraphs may be certified provided written declarations have been obtained from the owner/exporter. OVs should retain copies of these declarations for record purposes.

5. IDENTIFICATION

Paragraph V (b) refers. Each animal must be identified with a microchip transponder. The identification details must be shown on the health certificate. The South African veterinary authorities recommend that microchip brands adopted by the International Standards Organisation (ISO) should be used.

6. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Paragraph V (d) and (e) refer. OVs may certify these paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided written authority from the DVM/DVO-NI has been

received on form EC618 (or its equivalent in NI).

7. RABIES VACCINATION

The Department of Agriculture in South Africa has requested that exporters are informed that South Africa is a rabies infected country and pet owners are advised to vaccinate their pets against rabies before or on arrival in South Africa.

8. TREATMENT

Paragraphs V (g) and (h) refer. Only licensed products may be used.

9. PROCEDURE ON ARRIVAL IN SOUTH AFRICA

The State Veterinarian, Quarantine Master or Veterinary Official at the airport/port of destination described in the South African import permit must be notified in advance of the arrival of the animal. The animal may not be released without his/her written permission.

10. DISCLAIMER

The Defra disclaimer (Form 372DMR) will be issued to the exporter with this certificate for his/her information. The 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 International Animal Health Division at the address given below.

11. WELFARE

Exporters are advised that animals must be transported in accordance with Council Directive 91/628/EEC. Vehicles and transport arrangements which conform to the requirements of the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997 meet the standards set out in Council Directive 91/628/EEC. Information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Animal Welfare Division at any of the offices listed below:

ENGLAND Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Animal Welfare Division
1A Page Street, London SW1P 4PQ
Tel: 020 7904 6581 / Fax: 020 7904 6961

SCOTLAND Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department
Animal Welfare Division
Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh. EH14 1TW
Tel: 0131.556 8400 ext 6181 / Fax:0131 244 6616

WALES National Assembly for Wales
Animal Welfare Division
Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NQ
Tel: 02920 823593 / Fax: 02920 823352

NORTHERN IRELAND Animal Welfare and Trade Branch
Welfare Section
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast
Tel: 028 90 524950

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
1A Page Street
London
SW1P 4PQ