

EXPORT OF CATS AND DOGS FROM GREAT BRITAIN TO THE BAHAMAS

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 3888EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 3888EHC. 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 Department of Agriculture in Nassau;
- Export health certificate issued by DEFRA;
- Animals must be examined by the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN, not more than 48 hours prior to export;
- Animals must have been resident in the UK for at least six months prior to export, or since birth;
- For dogs: Vaccinations against canine distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, leptospirosis, adenovirus;
- For cats: Vaccinations against feline leukaemia, rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, panleukopenia and pneumonitis;
- Testing for internal parasites;

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 3888NFG (Cleared 05/11/1999) (Revised 04/12/2023)

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. IMPORT PERMIT

No dog or cat may be imported into the Bahamas except in accordance with the terms of an import permit. The permit must be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, P O Box N3028, Nassau, Bahamas.

4. 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.

5. TRAVELLING THROUGH OTHER COUNTRIES

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

VACCINATION
Paragraph III (c) refers. A completed primary vaccination course or a booster dose must be administered within 12 months of the proposed date of export.

The Bahamian authorities require that dogs are vaccinated for corona virus on arrival in the Bahamas.

7. LABORATORY TESTING

Paragraph III (d) refers: Parasitological examination must be carried out in a laboratory of the Veterinary Laboratories Agency. When samples are submitted, the laboratory must be requested to examine the sample using the modified McMaster flotation technique. Note that a negative result is defined as no worm eggs seen.

8. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Paragraph III (e) refers. 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

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

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 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