

No:

EXPORT OF DOGS AND CATS FROM UNITED KINGDOM TO ST LUCIA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 3100EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 3100EHC. 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 3100EHC may be used for the export of dogs and cats from the United Kingdom to St Lucia.

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. **IMPORT PERMIT**

Application, in advance of the export date, for an import permit must be made to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - Veterinary and Livestock Services Division, situated at Castries, St Lucia, West Indies - telephone +758 468 5621/5620 or +758 450 3213 (Castries) or +758 454 3470 (Vieux-Fort). The Veterinary and Livestock Services Division must be notified at least 3 days in advance of the arrival date, with details of port of entry, date, time and flight number. Any dog or cat failing to meet import requirements or entering without a permit will be refused entry or be humanely euthanised.

4. **MICROCHIPPING**

The dog/cat must be electronically identifiable by means of microchip. Microchips must conform to ISO standard 11784, and the reader to ISO standard 11785. If the microchip does not conform to the standard, pet owners will need to provide their own microchip reader to enable the microchip to be read successfully.

5. **RABIES VACCINATION**

The dog/cat must be vaccinated against rabies at a time when it is at least 3 months of age or older, using an inactivated and adjuvanted vaccine approved by Defra.

In the case of booster vaccinations, the cat/dog must have been vaccinated not less than one month and not more than one year prior to export. If the booster rabies vaccination date has been missed, the same procedure would apply as in the case of primary vaccination and testing.

6. **RABIES SEROLOGY**

Not less than 30 days after the date of vaccination, a blood test to determine the rabies antibody titre must be carried out and a blood sample sent to a Government approved laboratory. The blood test will have been successful if it shows a rabies antibody titre equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/ml.

It is not clear whether a period of six months must elapse between the date of blood sampling leading to a successful rabies test result and the date of export. If a particular import permit requires this, then the owner/exporter must ensure this requirement is also met, even though the export health certificate does not mention it.

The original copy of the laboratory results must accompany the export health certificate.

7. **OTHER VACCINATIONS**

The date of the vaccination must be entered on the export health certificate. Only licensed vaccines may be used.

8. **INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PARASITES**

The dog/cat must be treated for endoparasites, including tapeworm, and for ectoparasites, including ticks, not less than 24 hours and not more than 48 hours before entry into St Lucia. It is essential that only licensed products are used for treatments.

9. **LYME DISEASE**

There is currently no vaccine available with which to treat Lyme disease. However, testing is available.

10. **HEARTWORM TESTING**

Two types of test are required. The *Dirofilaria microfilaria* **concentration test** requires at least 1 ml of heparinised or EDTA blood. The *Dirofilaria* (**antigen ELISA**) test requires a minimum of 4 ml of clotted blood or 2 ml of serum.

11. **GENERAL TESTING**

All testing must be carried out at a laboratory of the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA). Blood samples must be submitted sufficiently in advance for the test to be done within the scheduled time.

12. **TRANSPORTATION**

The owner/exporter is responsible for ensuring that the conditions of transport for his/her animal meet the standards laid down by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). He/she should ask the transporting airline to confirm this, and if necessary provide a copy of the relevant conditions. Published copies of the IATA conditions, together with the 'live animal labels' and 'this way up' labels which IATA require on animal crates, can be bought from the following companies:

Freight Merchandising Services, c/o Vidap Freight Services Ltd.,
Shield Road, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 1AU.
Tel: 01784 240840 Fax: 01784 248615

Label Line, Hollyhouse, 14 Tenby Road, Frimley, Surrey, GU16 5UT.
Tel: 01252 836472 Fax: 01252 838094

13. **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.

14. **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