

**EXPORT OF DOGS AND CATS FROM GREAT BRITAIN TO THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS (BVI)**

**NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER**

These notes provide guidance for the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN and exporter. They must be read in conjunction with health certificate 3894EHC which may be obtained from the local APHA Office. They are based on the requirements for the importation of dogs and cats into British Virgin Islands, known to the Department's knowledge, as at March 1999. We advise exporters to seek full details of the importing requirements from the veterinary authorities in the importing country or their representatives in UK, in advance of each consignment. These requirements should be compared with the information contained in these notes for guidance. If there are any discrepancies, exporters are advised to contact their local APHA Office immediately.

**1. SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS**

- Import licence from the Department of Agriculture, BVI;
- Export health certificate issued by DEFRA UK;
- Animals to be examined by the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN, not more than 48 hours prior to export;
- Animals must have been resident in Great Britain for at least six months prior to export, or since birth;
- Limited landing points in BVI. Veterinary division of BVI must be given at least 24 hours notice of confirmed arrival date, time, airline/vessel and port of entry.
- Dogs have been vaccinated against Canine Parvovirus, Distemper, Hepatitis/Adenovirus, Parainfluenza and Leptospirosis.
- Cats have been vaccinated against Panleukopenia, Feline Rhinotracheitis, Feline Calicivirus, Feline Leukemia.
- Cats and Dogs have been treated against internal and external parasites prior to export.

**2. NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE EXPORTER**

**a) IMPORT PERMIT**

No animals may be imported into the British Virgin Islands except in accordance with the terms of an Import Licence issued by the Administrator's Officer, Department of Agriculture, Paraquita Bay, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Telephone 001 284 495 2532/2451 or 001 284 494 3701 ext 6123, Fax 001 284 495 1269.

**b) EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE**

Export Health Certificate 3894EHC should accompany all dogs and cats exported from Great Britain to the British Virgin Islands.

The application form (EXA 1) should be completed and forwarded to the local APHA Office.

On receipt of your application form, the local APHA Office will issue the certificate to your nominated Official Veterinarian, who will then complete the certification.

An OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN is a official veterinarian who is appointed by DEFRA to carry out export certification.

If you do not know the name of a Ministry approved OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN, your local APHA Office will be able to advise you of those in your area.

c) **TRANSPORTATION**

Normally dogs and cats must travel direct to the seaports of Road Town or West End or the airports of Beef Island, Road Town Harbour, Taddy Bay, Virgin Gorda or West End Harbour. Exceptionally the Administrator may authorise animals to be landed at another port specified in the import licence.

If travelling by air, the animal must be transported in accordance with the International Air Transport Association (I.A.T.A) Standards. Information on these standards may be obtained from APHA or by contacting the Welfare Department listed at paragraph 4 below.

d) **NOTIFICATION OF ARRIVAL**

The Veterinary Division of Department of Agriculture BVI must be notified at least 24 hours in advance of the confirmed date of arrival, time, airline/vessel and port of entry.

e) **TRAVELLING THROUGH OTHER COUNTRIES**

It is the responsibility of the exporter/agent to apply to the relevant authorities of the countries shown at paragraph 3 of EXA1 for permission to transport the animals through these countries. Additional health certification may be necessary.

**3. NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN**

a) **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS may only certify paragraph IV(g) provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade - Carlisle or from the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

b) **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN**

The certificate must be signed and stamped with the official OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

c) **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](mailto: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.

### **4. 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](mailto:WIT@apha.gov.uk)

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