

No:

EXPORT OF CATS AND DOGS TO ASCENSION ISLAND FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) 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 7268EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7268EHC. 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

This certificate may be used for the export of dogs and cats from the United Kingdom to Ascension Island.

The following types of dog are prohibited from importation into Ascension Island; Pit Bull Terrier; Dogo Argentino; Japanese Tosa; Brazilian Fila.

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. IDENTIFICATION

All the boxes in the table in paragraph **I.** must be completed. In the box headed 'breed', a brief physical description must be given in addition to the name of the breed. On each occasion when the OV sees the animal for any examination or test required under this certificate, the OV should confirm the identity of the animal by checking the microchip reading.

4. ELIGIBILITY FOR IMPORT

The animal(s) must have a fully validated pet passport , OR: been resident in United Kingdom and/or Ireland for 6 months prior to export; and must be free from quarantine restrictions.

The animal(s) must not be pregnant at the scheduled time of export.

The animal(s) must be more than 24 weeks of age at the scheduled time of export.

5. IDENTIFICATION

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

6. TRANSPORTATION

If transported by air, the animal must be carried in an approved container which meets the IATA (International Air Transport Association) standards.

7. DECLARATIONS

Paragraph IV 1(a) refers: the OV must make due enquiry to confirm residency, this should include checking the passport for dogs and cats holding EU pet passports. **In all cases** the 7268NFG (20/11/2019) (Revised 02/01/2024)

OV must obtain a written declaration from the owner/exporter confirming the residency conditions.

Paragraph **IV 1(b), (c) and (e)** refer. The owner/exporter must provide to the OV written declarations stating that:

Paragraph **IV 1(b)** refers - in case of a female, the animal will not be pregnant at the scheduled date of export;

Paragraph **IV(c)** refers - the animal will be more than 24 week of age at the schedule date of export; and

Paragraph **IV(e)** refers - the dog is not one of the types not eligible for exports to Ascension Island (including crosses of those types).

There are no standard forms provided by Defra for these documents. It is the responsibility of the owner/exporter to produce such documents.

These declarations must be retained by the OV for record purposes. The OV should make due enquiry as to the validity of the declarations and if there is any doubt, APHA Centre for International Trade - Exports, Carlisle should be consulted.

8. TESTS

All testing must be carried out as specified in the certificate at a Government/Government authorised laboratory.

NOTE: It is recommended that all samples for testing are submitted as early as possible in the permitted pre-export period to allow for re-sampling and re-testing which is sometimes necessary.

Paragraph **IV 2(a)** refer. In the case of a dog, the **Dirofilaria immitis concentration test** requires: at least 1 ml of heparinised or EDTA blood. Paragraph **IV 2(a), 3(a), 3 (b), 3(c)** refer. In the case of a dog, the tests for **Dirofilaria (antigen ELISA), Brucella, Leptospira and Ehrlichia** require a minimum of 4 ml of clotted blood or 2 ml of serum.

Paragraph **IV 4.2** refers. In the case of a dog, **haematological examination for Babesia**. Capillary blood for haematological examination of a blood smear should be obtained aseptically from the outer surface of the ear pinna near the margin. A drop of blood should be placed at one end of a microscope slide and a thin blood film made using the method described at Annex A. **Note that blood films must be thin and of suitable quality for microscopic examination. The slide should be quickly air dried (not fixed) and submitted to the laboratory in a suitable slide container to arrive as soon as possible after preparation. Poor quality blood smears will be rejected as unsuitable for reporting and a further sample requested.**

Paragraph **IV 5(a)** refers. In the case of a dog or cat, the test for **hookworm** requires two separate 3 g samples of fresh faeces to be examined. The samples must be collected at least 14 days apart. Each should be submitted to the laboratory, in clearly labelled, sealed universal containers, as soon as possible after collection.

Laboratory Reports and the owner's declaration should be attached to the export health certificate and sent with the animal to Ascension Island.

9. LEPTOSPIROSIS

Paragraph IV.3 (b) refers. Dogs, particularly those that are vaccinated, may give a positive result to the **Leptospira** test. In this case paired samples taken not less than 14 days apart may be tested and the dog certified if the test results show no increase in titre.

Dogs which fail to meet the blood testing requirements may be treated either with doxycycline or dihydrostreptomycin at a therapeutic dose rate. It is strongly recommended that samples for *Leptospira* testing are submitted as early as possible in the permitted pre-export period to allow time for retesting or treatment if necessary.

10. TREATMENT

Paragraph IV. 5 (b) refers. Ascension Island requires that the animal is treated twice (14 days apart) against nematodes, cestodes and trematodes by the certifying veterinarian within 30 days prior to export using a broad spectrum anthelmintic(s). Praziquantel is known to be effective against trematodes. OV's may decide to use a praziquantel based product licensed for other use, exercising their clinical judgment on the 'cascade principle'. OV's should demonstrate due care in administering medicinal products outwith the recommendations of the data sheet, and should seek the manufacturer's advice as appropriate. OV's are advised to obtain the written consent of the owner/exporter before administering products outwith the data sheet.

Paragraph IV 5(c) refers. Between 2 and 10 days prior to export the animal(s) must be treated with an insecticidal product containing fipronil

11. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Official Veterinarians may certify IV 8 on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC, from APHA Centre for International Trade - Exports, Carlisle. OV's must ensure that the 618NDC is valid for the date of export and that it accompanies the health certificate to the point of departure.

12. RETURNING TO THE UK

If the animals are at any time likely to return to the UK it is advisable that the animals are rabies vaccinated and a rabies serology (RNATT) is carried out, as exporters are reminded that this will be required for re-entry to the UK through an unlisted country (e.g. South Africa). The blood test, a neutralising antibody titration test, must be carried out by an officially authorised laboratory. A list of approved rabies serology laboratories in the UK can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rabies-blood-testing-laboratories-in-the-uk>

13. WELFARE

7268NFG (20/11/2019) (Revised 02/01/2024)

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