

EXPORT OF GIANT OTTERS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO GUATEMALA

NOTES FOR 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 8951. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8951. 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**
8951 may be used for the export of giant otters from the United Kingdom to Guatemala.
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 should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any 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

Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) certifying DAERA Export Certification On-Line (DECOL) produced EHCs 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 of the animal**

Animal should be identified with a 15-digit pet microchip which is compliant with International Standards Organization standard 11784 or Annex A of ISO standard 11785.

Animal identification must be verified prior to administering Rabies vaccination and any other vaccination as required by this certificate.

The Table in Paragraph 1 must be fully completed.

4. **Health Requirements (Section IV)**

Before signing the health certificate, the Official Veterinarian (OV) must be satisfied that the requirements in paragraphs (a) to (h) have been met and that supporting evidence is available where required.

IV(a) Rabies freedom

OVs may certify this paragraph on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

IV(b) Origin of the animals

The OV must obtain evidence that the otter(s) were born and raised in a government-registered zoo, licensed zoo or wildlife park in the United Kingdom. Acceptable evidence may include zoo records, animal management records, or other official records. Exporter declaration might be required if OV consider it necessary.

IV(c) Freedom from official disease restrictions

The OV must be satisfied that, for at least the six months immediately preceding export, both the otter(s); and the zoo(s) or wildlife park(s) where the otter(s) resided have not been subject to quarantine restrictions or other official disease-related restrictions. Documentary evidence should be obtained from the establishment and verified, where appropriate.

IV(d) Clinical examination

The OV must carry out a clinical examination of the otter(s) at the time of shipment. The OV must be satisfied that the otter(s) are clinically healthy; show no clinical evidence of infectious, contagious or parasitic disease applicable to the species; show no evidence of systemic mycosis; and have no fresh wounds.

IV(e) and IV(f) Pre-export isolation

The OV must verify that the otter(s) have been maintained in pre-export isolation (PEI) approved and supervised by an OV for at least 30 days before export. During this period, the otter(s) must have remained isolated from animals of a different health or residency status and must not have had contact with such animals. Documentary evidence of the isolation period must be available to the OV.

IV(g) Parasite treatments

The OV must verify that, during the 30-day PEI period, the otter(s) received Ectoparasite treatment - A full course of treatment using a broad-spectrum antiparasitic product effective against fleas, mites, lice and ticks. The OV to record on the certificate: active ingredient(s); dosage rate; and treatment date(s).

Endoparasite treatment - a full course of treatment using a broad-

spectrum antiparasitic product effective against endoparasites, including Echinococcus species. The to must record on the certificate: active ingredient(s); dosage rate; and treatment date(s).

The OV should review treatment records and be satisfied that products have been administered in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or veterinary direction.

IV(h) Testing or vaccination

The OV must verify that, within 30 days before shipment, the otter(s) were vaccinated against (or tested negative) for:

Rabies

Canine distemper

Canine parvovirus

Canine coronavirus

Infectious canine hepatitis

Leptospirosis

Copies of vaccination records must accompany the consignment and must include vaccine product name; batch number; and vaccination date. The OV should retain copies of all laboratory reports and vaccination documentation used to support certification.

Clinical Examination

Paragraph IV 1 a) refers. Clinical examination must be carried out within 48 hours of export.

Rabies vaccination

Paragraph IV 1 b) refers. Animal must be vaccinated against rabies not less than 30 days and not more than 12 months prior to export, and in accordance with manufacturer instructions. Animal should be at least 3 months of age at the time of first vaccination. Relevant details must be completed by OV on the table. A copy of the rabies vaccination certificate should be kept for the OV's own records.

Other vaccinations

Paragraph IV 1 c) refers. Dogs should be vaccinated against distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, and parvovirus, and cats should be vaccinated against feline viral rhinotracheitis, panleukopenia and feline leukemia. Vaccinations are to be administered prior to dispatch, using licensed products in accordance with the manufacturer instructions. Details to be completed by OV on the table. The animal has received a primary course of vaccination against these diseases, and if necessary, have received booster vaccinations, in accordance with the directions on the data sheets for the products used as required.

A copy of the vaccination certificates should be kept for the OV's own records.

V Transport

Exporter declaration is needed for certification of points a) - f)

V(g) refers. Official sealing is required by the OV and seal number must be recorded on the certificate.

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.

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