

EXPORT OF DOGS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO FIJI

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) 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 2919EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 2919EHC. 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 2919EHC may be used for the export of dogs from the United Kingdom to Fiji.

Associated documents 2191EHC and 618NDC

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.

There is a model health certificate that is usually supplied with the Import Permit from Fiji. OV's MUST COMPLETE ONLY THE DEFRA CERTIFICATE, AND DISREGARD THE FIJI MODEL CERTIFICATE ATTACHED TO THE IMPORT PERMIT.

Please note that this export health certificate consists of two parts: A and B. They can both be signed by the Official Veterinarians (OVs). We strongly recommend that certificate B is signed by different OV than certificate A, unless the exporter obtains written confirmation from the Fijian authorities that both certificates may be signed by the same OV. Should the exporter choose to have both certificates signed by a single OV without such confirmation, this would be done at the exporter's own risk.

3. IMPORT PERMIT

Dogs are allowed to enter Fiji provided they are accompanied by an import permit and the certificate mentioned above.

NOTE: OV's should ensure that they have sight of the import permit before certifying the animal to ensure that all relevant requirements specified in the import permit are complied with. In addition, the exporter should read the Import Permit carefully as it may contain some information regarding any post-import requirements.

4. IDENTIFICATION

Paragraph 1, and Certificate A, Paragraph 4.1 refer. Each animal must be identified with a microchip transponder. The identification details must be shown on the health certificate. The Fiji veterinary authorities recommend that microchip brands adopted by the International Standards Organisation (ISO) should be used.

All the boxes in the table of paragraph 1. must be completed. In the box headed 'breed', a brief physical description must be given in addition to the name of the breed. The OV should confirm the identity of the animal by reading the microchip on each occasion the animal is

presented for clinical examination or to carry out any of the procedures required under this certificate.

5. DECLARATIONS

Certificate A, paragraphs 4.2, 4.3. and 4.4. refer. **These paragraphs may be certified provided written declarations have been obtained from the owner/exporter.** There are no standard forms provided by Defra for these declarations. 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 CIT export team should be consulted.

Regarding Paragraph 4.4.: The importation of certain dog breeds into Fiji is prohibited. This restriction applies to non-domestic canine breeds, their hybrids, and any crossbreeds. Examples of prohibited breeds include the Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Japanese Tosa, Pit Bull Terriers (including American Pit Bull Terriers), and Perro de Presa Canario (Presa Canario), as well as any crossbreeds derived from these breeds.

6. LABORATORY TESTING

Certificate A, paragraph 8 refer. All laboratory tests must be conducted at a government laboratory, or a laboratory approved by United Kingdom.

Dog must be tested for Ehrlichiosis, Leptospirosis, Leishmaniosis, Canine babesiosis - Babesia canis and Babesia gibsoni, and brucellosis with the testing method and within timelines exactly as specified on the certificate. Please contact government or approved laboratory for any specific sampling instructions and turnover times for sample results.

NOTE - separate tests and separate results are required for Babesia canis & Babesia gibsoni.

7. TREATMENT for internal and external parasites

Certificate A, paragraphs 5 and 6 refer. Only licensed products may be used.

8. POST ARRIVAL QUARANTINE

It is responsibility of the exporter to make arrangement regarding to quarantine, as per requirements listed on the import permit. Provided all the conditions in the certificate have been met and the quarantine fees have been paid, dogs have to spend a minimum period of 30 days quarantine on arrival at Fiji. Home quarantine is NOT an option.

9. RABIES NEUTRALISING ANTIBODY TITRE TEST (RNATT)

Certificate A, paragraph 7.refers. After being vaccinated against **rabies**, a blood sample should be sent to a Government approved laboratory (NRL APHA WEYBRIDGE) and subjected to the RNATT. Samples

should be collected at least 4 weeks after the **rabies** vaccination to allow the dog to produce sufficient antibodies to record a positive result equal or greater than 0.5 IU/ml. The RNATT has been done at least 180 days and not more than 335 days prior to export and has a positive result of at least 0.5IU/ml. The RNATT is only valid for 1 year (365 days) from the date of blood collection.

The date of blood collection for the RNATT will determine the earliest date that the dog may be shipped to Fiji.

A minimum of 180 days must elapse between the date the blood sample for the RNATT (with a satisfactory result) is collected and the date the animal is imported into Fiji.

Exporters should also note that the animal must spend at least 30 days in a quarantine facility in Fiji, regardless of when the blood sample for the RNATT was collected.

Therefore, where the minimum quarantine period of 30 days is anticipated, the blood sample for the RNATT should be collected at least 180 days before export to Fiji.

The blood sample must be collected by a government-approved veterinarian after verification of the animal's microchip. The microchip number must be recorded on the blood tube.

The RNATT must be carried out by a laboratory authorised by the competent authority of the exporting country and/or an accredited laboratory (this must be NRL APHA WEYBRIDGE). The laboratory report must include the animal's microchip number and show a result of at least 0.5 IU/ml. If the result is less than 0.5 IU/ml, the process must be repeated.

The RNATT report must be presented to the Official Veterinarian when completing the veterinary health certification.

The RNATT result remains valid for one year from the date of blood collection. If re-testing is required, it should be completed within one year of the initial RNATT to demonstrate continued rabies protection and avoid a further waiting period before eligibility for entry into Fiji.

IMPORTANT: OV's must verify the identity of the dog by reading its microchip number prior to drawing a blood sample for the RNATT test.

If the result of the RNATT test is less than 0.5IU/ml, the dog must be re-vaccinated and the whole process repeated. The RNATT test will only be valid for 1 year from the date the sample was collected.

10. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Certificate B, paragraph 4,5 and 6 .refers. This paragraph may be certified on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC, APHA CIT in GB or DAERA in NI. OV's responsible for certifying Section A must ensure that the 618NDC is valid for the date of export and that it accompanies the health certificate to the point of departure when certificate B is signed at embarkation.

11. LABORATORY REPORTS

Certificate A Paragraph 10; and Certificate B, 9 refer.

Certificate A, Paragraph 10 – the laboratory tests must be endorsed by the OV and attached to the Veterinary Health Certificate A. This paragraph is deletable in Certificate A, due to the same assurance being required in Certificate B Paragraph 9.

Originals or copies of the laboratory reports must be presented to the OV that signs Certificate B. OVs signing Certificate B should endorse and attach these reports to the health certificate which will accompany the dog to the final destination in Fiji.

12. TRANSPORT CRATE

Certificate B, paragraph 10 refers. The container where the dog will be transported must meet the standards laid down by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). This specifies, among other things, that the container must:

- be strong enough to prevent the animal escaping;
- have one end open and covered with bars, weld mesh, or smooth expanded metal securely attached, to provide the main ventilation opening;
- have ventilation openings on all sides totalling a minimum of 16% of the surface area of the four sides;
- only have ventilation openings of such size that it is impossible for the animal to protrude its nose or paws outside the container;
- be large enough to permit the animal to stand in a natural position, turn round and lie down; and
- contain a drinking bowl to which water can be added without opening the container.

In addition the container must be sealed with a seal/s prior to departure and the number/s of the seal/s recorded on export health certificate 2919EHC **Certificate B, paragraph 10**. The construction of the container and the placement of the seal/s must be such that the container cannot be opened without breaking the seal/s. (The sealing of the crate must be carried out by an official veterinarian **at the airport of embarkation**, arrangements for this must be made with the OV prior to shipment.

13. ANIMALS RETURNING TO UNITED KINGDOM

Your dog will be allowed back into United Kingdom only if it is accompanied by the appropriate entry documentation. For more information please follow guidance on gov.uk [Bringing your pet dog, cat or ferret to Great Britain: What you need to do - GOV.UK](#)

15. 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.

16. 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