



AFFA00/15228

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## QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF NON-DOMESTIC FELIDAE

### Scope

These requirements apply to the importation of members of the Order Carnivora, Family Felidae other than the domestic cat *Felis catus*. Biosecurity Australia plans to undertake import risk analyses (IRAs) for other families of non-domestic carnivores in due course. Interim requirements for non-domesticated carnivores other than felids apply pending completion of the IRAs.

### Documentation

- 1) A copy of a valid Permit to Import issued by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) must accompany each consignment. Further information may be obtained from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website [www.affa.gov.au](http://www.affa.gov.au) under Quarantine and Export Services – Animals, or by Email to [animalimp@aqis.gov.au](mailto:animalimp@aqis.gov.au). A fee will be charged for the Permit.
- 2) The animal/s must be accompanied by a copy of an Environment Australia (EA) permit and appropriate CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) documentation from the exporting country. Details are available from the Director, Sustainable Wildlife Industries, EA - Email [wildlifetrade@ea.gov.au](mailto:wildlifetrade@ea.gov.au) or the EA website: <http://www.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use>.
- 3) The animal/s must be accompanied by an *international veterinary certificate*. The certificate should be in the format of an OIE (Office International des Epizooties) Model International Veterinary Certificate for live animals and must give details of:
  - the identification of each animal including microchip number and site of implantation (rather than ear mark), species, sex and age;
  - name and address of exporter and zoo or wildlife park of origin;
  - name and address of consignee;
  - nature and identification of means of transport.

The *veterinary certificate* must be in English and be signed by an *Official Veterinarian*\* of the country of export who must certify that:

- a) the premises of origin is a government registered or licensed zoo or wildlife park approved for the holding of non-domestic carnivores;
- b) each animal for export has been continuously resident in the premises of origin for at least 12 months prior to certification or since birth;

- c) the premises of origin is under permanent veterinary supervision, and a suitable health monitoring programme, including microbiological and parasitological tests and necropsies, is implemented;
- d) the premises of origin has remained free from bovine tuberculosis for the past 5 years, and free from glanders for the past 12 months;
- e) no case of canine distemper has been diagnosed in felids at the premises of origin during the past 12 months;
- f) the country of export is free from rabies (as described in Article 2.2.5.2. of the OIE international Animal Health Code\*); **or**

no case of rabies has been diagnosed in the premises of origin in the past 12 months and there are effective controls to prevent the entry of rabies vectors\*; **or**

each animal was vaccinated against rabies during the past 12 months using an approved inactivated vaccine twice at an interval of 4 – 6 weeks, or once as a booster to a previous primary course of vaccination, and has been tested by a neutralising antibody titration test and found to have at least 0.5 IU/ml\*;

\*Note: Strike out which is not applicable

- g) the country of export is free from surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*)\*; **or**

no case of surra has been diagnosed in the premises of origin in the past 12 months, and each animal has been subjected to either an antibody enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) or an immunofluorescent antibody test (IFAT) for *T. evansi* in the past 30 days with negative results\*;

\*Note: Strike out which is not applicable

- h) each animal that is a bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) that has resided in North America has been tested within 30 days of export by examination of a blood smear for the presence of *Cytauxzoon felis* and by a microfluorometric immunoassay test (FIAX 100, Whittaker MA Bioproducts, Walkersville, Md, USA) for *C. felis* antibodies with negative results;

- i) the animal/s was/were isolated from other animals not of the same health and residency status for 30 days prior to the scheduled date of export, and remained free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease during that period;

- j) each animal has been individually identified with an ISO-compliant FDX-B microchip (transponder), and the site of implantation and the identification number of each animal is recorded on the *veterinary certificate*;

- k) each animal was treated for internal parasites (including cestodes) and external parasites (including ticks) with effective broad spectrum parasiticides during the 30 days prior to export and the dates of treatment, active ingredients and dose rates used are recorded for each animal in the individual health records attached to the *veterinary certificate*;

- l) he/ she or another *Official Veterinarian* has inspected each animal within 72 hours prior to export and found it to be healthy and fit to travel;

- m) after due enquiry he /she is satisfied that each animal will be shipped in a container that meets the appropriate container requirements specified in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations.

Note\*: An *Official Veterinarian* is a veterinarian authorised by the *Veterinary Administration* of the exporting country to perform animal health and/or public health inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, perform certification in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 1.2. of the OIE International Animal Health Code.

4) Individual health records including details of vaccinations, tests and treatments during the last two years or since the birth of each animal are to be attached to the *veterinary certificate*. Note: Vaccination against feline rhinotracheitis, feline calicivirus and feline panleucopaenia prior to export is recommended.

## **Transport**

The animal/s must be consigned directly to Australia. During transport to the port of export, during shipment, and during transport from the port of importation to the post-arrival quarantine facility, the animal/s must have no contact with animals not of the same consignment.

## **Quarantine**

In this section, quarantine means the holding of animals in a place and under conditions specified by AQIS pursuant to the *Quarantine Act 1908*.

Each animal must undergo at least 30 days post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) in a quarantine approved premises (QAP) and be inspected by an AQIS Veterinarian and found free from signs of infectious disease before release from quarantine. During PAQ the animal/s are to be monitored daily for signs of illness and, if necessary, be subjected to a clinical examination. All animals dying are to be subjected to a post-mortem examination to determine the cause of death and AQIS is to be advised.

At the completion of PAQ, the animal/s will be released under quarantine surveillance, into premises approved by the appropriate State or Territory Government for holding the imported species, subject to meeting EA and CITES requirements. The animal/s will be held under quarantine surveillance until six months after importation. While under quarantine surveillance the animal/s must be regularly monitored for signs of exotic disease and AQIS is to be notified in the event of suspicious signs. All animals dying are to be subjected to a post-mortem examination to determine the cause of death and AQIS is to be advised. The excreta and carcasses of animals under quarantine surveillance must be disposed of in a manner approved by AQIS.

While in PAQ or under surveillance the animal/s may be subjected to tests and/or treatments specified by AQIS at the importer's expense. If any animal fails a test or shows evidence of an exotic disease, it may be detained in quarantine, exported at the importer's expense or destroyed.

Animals imported from Europe deemed to be 'at-risk' of developing feline spongiform encephalopathy will be held under quarantine surveillance for life. Other animals free from suspicion of a quarantinable disease will be released unconditionally after six months.

## **Other requirements**

Permission to introduce and keep non-domestic carnivores will also be required from the Agency responsible for the regulation of the introduction and keeping of exotic animals in the State or Territory in which the importing institution or premises is located.

**Review**

These conditions may be reviewed at any time at the discretion of the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (Australia).

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