INFORMATION PAPER

DODVSA
3 February 2012

SUBJECT: European Union Non-Commercial Animal Movement

1. Purpose: To provide guidance on the rules and regulations for non-commercial animal movement into the European Union (EU).

2. References:

a. Regulation (EU) No 438/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council, 19 May 2010; amended 18 June 2010, in Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 on the animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals (with Annexes Ia and Ib), later amended 15 December 2011, in EC Implementing Decision 2011/874/EU laying down the list of third countries and territories authorized for imports of dogs, cats and ferrets and for non-commercial movements of more than five dogs, cats and ferrets into the Union and the model certificates for imports and non-commercial movements of those animals into the Union (with Annex I, Veterinary certificate to EU).

1) Regulation (EC) No 998/2003, available: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:2003R0998:20100618:EN:PDF.

2) Regulation (EU) No 438/2010, available: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:132:0003:0010:EN:PDF

3) Annex I to Decision 2011/874/EU, Veterinary certificate to EU, available: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:343:0065:0076:EN:PDF. (Hereafter referred to as “2012 EU Veterinary Certificate.”)

b. EUROPA – Animal Health, available: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/nocomm_third_en.htm

c. USDA-APHIS, National Center for Import and Export, available: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_european_union.shtml

3. Facts:

a. Effective 18 June 2010, European Union Regulation No. 438/2010 modified previous EU Reg. No. 998/2003 governing non-commercial animal movement into and within the EU. Notable changes to previous importation guidelines were:

1) Tattoos are no longer adequate animal identification. Use of an ISO Standard 11784/11785, read-only, passive radio frequency identification device (microchip transponder) is the only acceptable means of animal identification. Qualifying anti-rabies vaccination does not occur until after microchip implantation.

2) Use of either inactivated vaccine or recombinant vaccine expressing the immunizing glycoprotein of the rabies virus in a live virus vector (e.g Merial PureVax® Feline Rabies Vaccine) are acceptable anti-rabies vaccination methods.

3) Use the Veterinary Certificate for Domestic Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets Entering the European Community for Non-Commercial Movements was prescribed. (Hereafter referred to as "EU Form 998.")

b. European Council Implementing Decision 2011/874/EU further modified previous EU animal movement regulation. The following changes are in effect as of 1 January 2012:

1) EU Form 998 has been replaced with the 2012 EU Veterinary Certificate. EU Form 998 is still a valid entry document if it is issued by February 29, 2012. Veterinary health certificates are valid for entry into EU member states for 10 days; veterinary health certificates are valid for movement between EU member states for four (4) months. A health certificate cannot be issued by a veterinarian until after the post-primary vaccination[1] 21-day waiting period has elapsed.

2) The terms "pet," "companion animal," etc are no longer used in EU animal movement regulation. Animal movement certificates are categorized as non-commercial based on species (dog, cat, or ferret) AND shipment size (<6). All other movements are "imports," i.e. commercial movements. Thus, veterinary certificates for animal movements are divided into two categories:

a) Non-commercial movement: five or fewer dogs, cats, or ferrets.

b) Import: Consignments, commercial animal movements, and non-commercial movements of more than five dogs, cats or ferrets.[2]

c) Non-commercial animal movement into Finland, Ireland, Malta, Sweden, and the United Kingdom will no longer be governed by specific national legislation, but aligns with guidelines for non-commercial animal movement into the EU at large, as outlined in paragraphs b- d, below. As an exception, the above member states,

[1] The primary vaccination is the one that initiates an uninterrupted period of anti-rabies immunogenicity in a properly identified animal. A rabies vaccination is considered primary if either: (1) an animal was up-to-date on its rabies vaccination but vaccination occurred prior to microchip implantation, (2) booster vaccination was not carried out within the period of validity of a previous vaccination, or (3) the vaccination completes the initial series.

[2] Consignment shipments (use of shipment vendor; group > 5 dogs) of contract maintained MWDs (e.g. IDDs, TEDDs) are import movements. Import travel documents must be endorsed by an USDA area office.

excluding Sweden, still require Echinococcus treatment which must now occur not more than 120 hours (5 days), and not less than 24 hours, before the time of scheduled entry into the Member State.

c. Guidelines and minimum requirements for non-commercial animal movement between EU member states or from approved non-EU countries into EU member states follow:

1) Approved non-EU countries include Australia, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Russian Federation, United States of America, et al. (see Reference a, Annex II, Part C for complete list)

2) Animal identification as indicated in paragraph 3.a.1, above (ISO compatible microchip).

3) Documentation of primary anti-rabies vaccine administration with an agent as indicated in paragraph 3.a.2, above (licensed inactivated or recombinant vaccine), not preceding the date of microchip implantation indicated in paragraph 3.a.1. Primary anti-rabies vaccination remains valid as long as booster revaccination occurs within manufacturer recommended guidelines.

4) Required health documentation for non-commercial animal movement certifies absence of contagious disease, microchip implantation, and apppropriate anti-rabies vaccination (primary and boosters). This documentation includes rabies vaccination certificate(s), and health certificates (APHIS Form 7001 and 2012 EU Veterinary Certificate).

a) Appropriate documentation of valid anti-rabies vaccination (recorded on rabies certificate and accurately transcribed to other documents, as required) includes animal date of birth/age; microchip number, date of insertion, and location of the microchip on the animal; date of vaccination; vaccine product name; vaccine batch number; and date booster vaccination is due (based on manufacturer's data sheet[3]).

b) Certification of absence of contagious disease will be recorded on APHIS Form 7001 (United States Interstate and International Certificate of Health Examination for Small Animals) and the 2012 EU Veterinary Certificate. Veterinary Vaccination and Trilingual Health Certificate (DD Form 2621) and Veterinary Health Certificate (DD Form 2209) are no longer acceptable substitutes for 2012 EU Veterinary Certificate and APHIS Form 7001, respectively, for non-commercial animal international travel, including MWDs. Both APHIS Form 7001 and 2012 EU Veterinary Certificate will be completely filled-in to include the same unique certificate number/serial number on all pages of both forms and "N/A" in blocks that are otherwise empty.

[3] Note: The practice of entering a one-year vaccination expiration date on the rabies certificate after administering a three-year vaccine to an MWD will invalidate travel documents due to questions of inaccuracy, if the forms are scrutinized.

1) A separate APHIS Form 7001 and 2012 EU Veterinary Certificate will used for each animal.

2) Certificate numbers for MWDs will be in exam date (YYYYMMDD) – "MWD" - tattoo format (e.g. "20111115 – MWD - T436").

3) Certificate numbers for non-DOD government-owned animals will be in exam date – "GOA" – last four characters of microchip format (e.g. "20111115 – GOA - 1094").

4) Certificate numbers for POAs will be in exam date – "POA" – last four characters of microchip format (e.g. "20111115 – POA – 7557").

5) If using pre-sequenced, non-digital APHIS Forms 7001 acquired from a local USDA area office, the certificate number remains the sequence number. Ensure that the serial number on the 2012 EU Veterinary Certificate matches.

c) Veterinary Corps Officers and General Schedule Veterinarians (GS 0701) employed by the US Army Veterinary Service, but not Non-Appropriated Fund veterinarians, are competent authorities for endorsement of APHIS Form 7001 and other travel documents for non-commercial animal movements into the EU, including the UK. The endorsing veterinarian's signature must be accompanied by a stamp demonstrating VCO or GS status and association with the US Army Veterinary Service. A signature block stamp with name, rank/grade, and clinic name fulfills this requirement.

d. Specific requirements for non-commercial animal movement from non-approved non-EU countries follow:

1) Non-approved non-EU countries are any third country not specifically listed in Reference a, Annex II, including Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

2) In addition to minimum requirements in paragraph 3.c, non-commercial animal movement into EU member states from non-approved non-EU countries requires demonstration of a neutralizing antibody titration [Fluorescent Antibody Virus Neutralization (FAVN)] greater than or equal to 0.5 IU/ml on blood drawn at least 30 days following primary vaccination.

3) At least three months must have elapsed between blood collection resulting in an acceptable FAVN titer ("waiting period") and animal travel.

4) The FAVN need not be renewed on an animal which has received rabies booster vaccinations since the primary vaccination within intervals recommended by the manufacturer. If anti-rabies vaccination coverage lapses, the next rabies vaccination becomes the new primary vaccination, and the FAVN process (paragraph 3.d.2) must be reinitiated.

5) In addition to documents listed in paragraph 3.c.4.b, a laboratory report indicating adequate FAVN titer is required for entry from a non-approved country.

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