



April 2, 2012

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

Veterinary Services

National Center for  
Import/Export

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COL Bob E. Walters  
Director Operations  
Department of Defense  
Veterinary Service Activity  
5109 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, VA 22041-3258

Dear Colonel Walters,

This is to clarify the role of military veterinarians in issuing health certificates for movement of military working dogs and military family dogs, cats and ferrets into the European Union (EU), and military working dogs and military family dogs and cats into Japan and Korea.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) designates Veterinary Corps Officers, as well as General Schedule (GS 0701) veterinarians employed by the United States Army Veterinary Service working at military veterinary treatment facilities, as "official veterinarians." Consequently, APHIS endorsement is not required for health certificates issued by military veterinarians for movement of dogs, cats and ferrets to the EU including the United Kingdom, and dogs and cats to Japan and Korea. This designation does not apply to Army Veterinary Service non-appropriated fund or Department of Defense contract civilian veterinarians.

APHIS endorsement is required for certificates issued for all other animals including livestock, horses, and birds.

Military veterinarians may issue health certificates for both "non-commercial" and "commercial" movement of dogs, cats and ferrets to all EU Member States.

A stamp clearly identifying the issuer as a military veterinarian must be applied to all health certificates. Certificates must also include a unique certificate number.

For more information, contact Dr. Sara Kaman, APHIS, National Center for Import and Export, at (301) 851-3300, or at [sara.kaman@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:sara.kaman@aphis.usda.gov).

Sincerely,

Joyce Bowling-Heyward, DVM, MS  
Director, Import-Export Animals Staff  
National Center for Import and Export  
Veterinary Services



Safeguarding American Agriculture

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