

IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR THE IMPORTATION OF SLENDER-TAILED MEERKAT (*Suricata suricatta*) INTO NEW ZEALAND

1 IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD

- 1.1 Pursuant to section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, this document is the import health standard for the importation of Meerkat (*Suricata suricatta*) into New Zealand.
- 1.2 This import health standard may be reviewed, amended or revoked if there are any changes in New Zealand's import policy or the animal health status of the originating country, or for any other lawful reason, at the discretion of the Director Animal Biosecurity (DAB).

2 IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 The importer must obtain a permit to import prior to proceeding with importation (See PART B: IMPORTATION PROCEDURE).
- 2.2 The costs of MAF in performing functions relating to the importation of Meerkat (*Suricata suricatta*) shall be recovered in accordance with the Biosecurity Act and any regulations made under that Act.
- 2.3 All costs involved with documentation, transport, and obtaining a biosecurity direction and/or biosecurity clearance shall be borne by the importer or agent.

3 DEFINITION OF TERMS

biosecurity direction

Direction or authorisation given by an Inspector for uncleared goods to proceed to a transitional or a containment facility.

biosecurity clearance

As defined by the Biosecurity Act 1993.

DAB

The Director Animal Biosecurity, New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, or any person who for the time being may lawfully exercise and perform the power and functions of the Director Animal Biosecurity.

equivalence

Acceptance by the Director Animal Biosecurity that the circumstances relating to the importation of a consignment are such that the health status of the consignment is equivalent to the health status of a consignment that complies with the requirements of the import health standard.

Inspector

As defined by the Biosecurity Act 1993.

MAF

The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Official Veterinarian

Means a civil service veterinarian or a specially appointed veterinarian, as authorised by the Veterinary Administration of the country.

Veterinary Officer

A registered veterinarian who is an inspector under the Biosecurity Act employed either by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry or by a supplier contracted to provide services to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Transitional facility

As defined by the Biosecurity Act 1993.

4 EQUIVALENCE

This import health standard is in accordance with agreements between the exporting country and New Zealand. Biosecurity clearance will not normally be given to a consignment that does not meet the requirements of this import health standard in every respect.

Occasionally it is found that due to circumstances beyond the control of the importer or exporter a consignment does not comply with the requirements of this import health standard. In such cases, an application for equivalence submitted prior to importation will be considered and may be given at the discretion of the DAB if the following information is provided by the exporting country's government veterinary authority:

- 4.1 which clause/s of the import health standard cannot be met and how this has occurred;
- 4.2 the reason/s the consignment may be considered of equivalent health status to a consignment complying with this import health standard, and/or what proposal is made to achieve an equivalent health status;
- 4.3 the reason/s why the veterinary authority believes this proposal should be acceptable to the DAB and their recommendation for its acceptance.

PART B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE

5 PERMIT TO IMPORT

- 5.1 An permit to import is required for all consignments of Meerkat (*Suricata suricatta*) imported into New Zealand. Application for a permit shall be made at least 30 days prior to the proposed date of importation in writing to Import Management, Biosecurity Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand.

- 5.2 An application for a permit to import shall provide the following information:
- (i) name and address of importer; and
 - (ii) name and address of exporter; and
 - (iii) description and numbers of meerkat (*Suricata suricatta*) to be imported; and
 - (iv) date of the proposed importation; and
 - (v) name and address of the transitional facility to which the consignment is to proceed following importation; and
 - (vi) a letter from the authorised supervisor of the transitional facility stating that the facility is approved and is available for the dates proposed and has the capacity to accommodate the consignment proposed to be imported; and
 - (vii) the transport method and route during importation into New Zealand, which will be in accordance with all requirements for **AIR TRANSPORT TO NEW ZEALAND** noted in this import health standard, and evidence of transit authority from countries on the transport route; and
 - (viii) the transport method and route during transfer from the port of arrival in New Zealand to the transitional facility.
- 5.3 A permit to import will be granted for a single consignment only.

6 ELIGIBILITY FOR IMPORTATION

- 6.1 Eligibility for importation under this import health standard is confined to the species *Suricata suricatta*.
- 6.2 The animals were born and have been continuously resident in a government registered or licensed zoo or wildlife park.
- 6.3 Animals must not be in the last third of pregnancy at the date of export.

7 DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE CONSIGNMENT

- 7.1 The consignment shall be accompanied by appropriately completed health certification which meets the requirements of PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION.
- 7.2 Documentation shall be in English, but may be bilingual (language of exporting country/English)
- 7.3 It is the importer's responsibility to ensure that any documentation presented in accordance with the requirements of this import health standard is original (unless otherwise specified) and clearly legible. Failure to do so may result in delays in obtaining

biosecurity direction or rejection of the consignment.

[NOTE: Any requirement for CITES or other conservation related documentation must be met by the exporter/importer but is independent of this certification requirement.]

8 AIR TRANSPORT TO NEW ZEALAND

- 8.1 The animal must be in an approved container which meets the IATA standards.
- 8.2 No animals other than those qualified for entry into Australia or New Zealand are permitted to be carried on the aircraft.
- 8.3 The use of straw or hay as bedding is not permitted. Only sterilised peat, soft board or other inert approved products may be used.
- 8.4 The door of the transport container must be sealed with a government approved seal before the container is loaded into the aircraft in the country of origin. The number or mark on the seal must be recorded in Veterinary Certificate B by the certifying veterinarian. The construction of the container and the placement of the seal must be such that the container cannot be readily opened without breaking the seal. If the container is opened during shipment it shall be re-sealed and a certificate detailing the circumstances provided by an Official Veterinarian, Port Authority or Captain of the aircraft. Instructions to this effect should be attached to the outside of the transport container.
- 8.5 The route must be approved by the DAB. Trans-shipment will also require the specific authorisation of the government veterinary authority of the country in which transshipment occurs.
- 8.6 The New Zealand MAF Quarantine Service of the region in which the port of arrival is situated must be notified at least 72 hours before the expected time of arrival of the animal, giving the flight number and arrival time.

PART C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

9 BIOSECURITY DIRECTION

- 9.1 Upon arrival in New Zealand the documentation accompanying the animal shall be inspected by an Inspector at the port of arrival. The Inspector may also inspect the consignment, or a sample of the consignment.
- 9.2 A biosecurity direction may be given by an Inspector under section 25 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 authorising the animal to move to the transitional facility named in the permit to import, providing that the documentation meets all requirements noted under PART D. ZOO SANITARY CERTIFICATION and the consignment meets the conditions of ELIGIBILITY.

10 TRANSITIONAL FACILITY

- 10.1 Following biosecurity direction being given the animal shall proceed to a registered transitional facility.
- 10.2 The animal shall remain in the transitional facility for no less than 30 days, or for a longer period if required by the DAB.
- 10.3 While in the transitional facility the animal will be subjected to such testing, treatments or procedures required by the DAB, including for:
 - 10.3.1 Treatment for internal and external parasites.
 - 10.3.2 Such other tests, treatments or procedures as are reasonably necessary to determine the health status of the consignment.
- 10.4 All costs of testing, treatment, transport, quarantine servicing and veterinary supervision will be borne by the importer.
- 10.5 On satisfactory completion of the post arrival quarantine period, and on the written confirmation from the DAB, the supervising Veterinary Officer will authorise the animal to be moved from the transitional facility to a permanent containment facility at the importing zoo.
- 10.6 The animal and any of its offspring shall remain permanently in a registered zoo, and can only be transferred to another zoo with the prior permission of the DAB.

PART D : ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

Species: Meerkat (*Suricata suricatta*)

To: NEW ZEALAND

Permit to import number.

Exporting Country:

Service:

Region:

I: IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS

1 Microchip/Tattoo (delete one) identification number:.....

2 Site of microchip/tattoo (delete one):.....

3 Other Identification (eg. ARKS number):.....

4 Species:.....

5 Sex:.....

6 Date of Birth:.....

II: ORIGIN OF THE ANIMALS

1 Name and address of exporter:

2 Place of origin of animal:

3 Port of embarkation:

III: DESTINATION OF ANIMALS

1 Name and address of consignee:

2 Flight Number:

3 Port of arrival:.....

IV. SANITARY INFORMATION

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE - A

I,.....being a registered veterinarian and authorised to provide veterinary services to the government registered zoo or wildlife park named in section II, certify after due enquiry with respect to the Meerkat(s) identified in the attached Zoosanitary Certificate that:

1. After due enquiry or physical examination, I am satisfied that the animal:
 - 1.1 is a member of the species *Suricata suricatta*
 - 1.2 was born, and has been continuously resident in a government registered or licensed zoo or wildlife park
 - 1.3 is not in the last third of pregnancy
2. **Either** The animal was kept since birth or for the 6 months prior to shipment in a rabies free country as defined by Article 3.1.5.2 of the OIE International Animal Health Code,
Or The animal has been kept since birth or for the 12 months prior to shipment in an establishment where no case of rabies has been reported for at least 12 months prior to shipment.

(Delete whichever is not applicable)

Pre-export Isolation

3. The animal was isolated from all other animals not of the same health and residency status for 30 days prior to the scheduled date of export, and the animal and all in contact animals were free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious diseases during that period.
4. During the pre-export isolation period:
 - 4.1 The animal was treated for leptospirosis with dihydrostreptomycin at a therapeutic dose rate for 5 consecutive days.
 - 4.2 The animal was treated on two occasions at a minimum of 14 days apart against internal parasites using the following compounds with broad-spectrum efficacy:

Date of 1st treatment:.....

Date of 2nd treatment:.....

Active ingredients and dose rate :

.....

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- 4.3 Blood smears which have been appropriately stained were examined for *babesia* and found to be negative.
- 4.4 A faecal sample taken from the animal was examined for the presence of coccidial oocysts, and if found to be positive, the animal was subsequently treated with an effective product for the treatment of coccidial infections according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- 4.5 The animal was subjected to two faecal examinations, at least 14 days apart, using a floatation concentration method (able to detect 1 egg/3g of faeces) with negative results. *(based on that of: Egwang TG, Slocombe JOD. Evaluation of the Cornwell-Wisconsin centrifugal flotation technique for recovering trichostrongylid eggs from bovine feces. Canadian Journal of Comparative Medicine 46, 133-7, 1982.)*
- 4.6 Within 72 hours of shipment the animal was treated with an insecticide dip or spray capable of killing ticks, lice and fleas:
- Date of treatment:.....
- Active ingredient:
- 4.7 Within 48 hours of shipment, I examined the animal and found it to be free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious diseases and free from external parasites.
5. All laboratory tests were conducted at a Government laboratory or a laboratory approved by the Government Veterinary Service of this country.

.....
 Registered Veterinarian

.....
 Date of Signature

Name and address of office:

.....

.....

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE - B

I,..... the Official Veterinarian at the port of export of the animal(s) for export to New Zealand identified in the attached zoosanitary certificate, certify that:

1. At the time of export the animal was inspected and found to be healthy and fit to travel, and free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease.
2. The animal is being exported from a country which is/is not (delete one) free of rabies as defined by Article 3.1.5.2 of the OIE International Animal Health Code.
3. The veterinarian certifying Veterinary Certificate A is a registered veterinarian in the exporting country.
4. All the required documents were examined and found to be correctly completed in accordance with the New Zealand import health standard requirements.
5. The animal was placed in a container that met IATA standards, detailed in the section **Air Transport to New Zealand** of the import health standard. The container was fastened with an official seal bearing the number or mark:

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.....
Official Port Veterinarian

.....
Official stamp and date

Name and address of office:

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