



Ref: CTO 2013 082

Cats: Bengals

CTO direction to biosecurity inspectors for the clearance of cats.

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Cathy Dyer, Senior Adviser, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for products cats to be given clearance in accordance with the following measures, different from those in the Import Health Standard for Cats & Dogs (CATDOG.GEN), clause 5a.

Equivalence is given for documentation of five generations of domestic ancestry for Bengal cats. In cases where documentation is not available the following is acceptable:

- a. a declaration from the owner stating that to the best of their knowledge the cat is a domestic cat; and
- b. a statement from a registered veterinarian that the cat is neutered and, after due enquiry and inspection, the veterinarian is satisfied that it is a domestic cat and highly unlikely to have an Asian Leopard Cat in the previous four generations.

The IHS requirement for documentation of domestic ancestry for Bengal cats is in place to comply with CITES.

Asian Leopard Cats are listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). For the purposes of CITES, Bengal Cats must have no Asian Leopard Cats in the previous four generations of their lineage to be excluded from the provisions of the Convention, which require permits for international trade or prohibit it altogether. (CITES, 2007)

This direction takes effect from the date of signing and continues in effect until amended or revoked.

Signed at Wellington on this 15th day November, 2013.

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