



Ref: CTO 2015 014 [G]

Zoo: Gorilla PEI And Hepatitis B Testing

CTO direction to biosecurity inspectors for the clearance of zoo gorillas.

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Vicki Melville, Manager Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for zoo gorillas to be given clearance in accordance with the following measures, different from those in the applicable *Import Health Standard: Zoo Primates from Australia, Canada, the European Union, USA and Singapore* (zoopriic.spe):

Clause 9 of the veterinary certificate requires that prior to housing the primates, the premises were thoroughly cleaned with a high pressure hose followed by steam cleaning and spraying with an acaricide. Bedding was removed every 7 days and the premises thoroughly cleaned and sprayed with acaricide.

This CTO direction will allow that the premises were sprayed once prior to housing the primates with a long acting acaricide (at least the duration of PEI) instead of every 7 days.

AND/OR

Clause 12 of the veterinary certificate requires that in the case of gibbons and great apes only, the animals were serologically tested for hepatitis on two occasions while in PEI, with an interval of 21–28 days between tests. Tests used were for detection of antibodies against hepatitis B core antigen and hepatitis B surface antigen and had negative results.

This CTO direction will allow that the animals are subjected to a single PCR test or at least serologic test for HB surface antigen instead of two tests.

Testing for HBsAG is sufficient as a screen. The paired samples are to check for sero conversion. Furthermore the OIE Code 2014 has changed since the IRA for Zoo primates 2011. There is now only a Chapter 6.11 and 5.9 that cover non human primates and no requirements are made for Hepatitis B.

The reason for directing clearance is that the biosecurity risks associated with this CTO direction have been assessed and are managed effectively.

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