

EXPORTATION OF CANINE SEMEN

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INTRODUCTION

USDA does not regulate exportation of canine semen; however, USDA APHIS VS facilitates trade through maintenance of requirements for canine semen export from the United States to other countries via a web based International Animal Export Regulation System (IREGS) @ www.aphis.usda.gov and endorsement of health certificates.

Once on-line at the APHIS website, click on Programs → Veterinary Services → Import/Export → Export Animal Regulations → Select the country of destination. Currently, only the countries of Australia, Chile, Great Britain, and New Zealand have provided their import requirements for canine semen exported from the United States.

If there is no requirement for a particular country available on the IREGS website, the United States exporter should contact the importer in the destination country or the Ministry of Agriculture/Chief Veterinary Authority and request a permit to import canine semen into that country. The Embassy or Consulate personnel will sometimes help research information or provide contact information for an import permit application. Import permit information will include the required testing or certification needed to fulfill that country's import health requirements

If federal endorsement by USDA APHIS VS of the health certificate is required, a listing of Area Veterinarians-In-Charge (AVIC's) for your state can be found at: www.aphis.usda.gov – click on Programs → Veterinary Services → Area Offices or go directly to http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/area_offices.htm.

OVERVIEW

The following is an export requirement overview extrapolated from the IREGS website and its associated links for canine semen to the four countries that currently import canine semen from the United States—Australia, Chile, Great Britain and New Zealand.

IMPORTANT: these proceedings are not intended to replace current, updated information that is maintained on the IREGS website and/or the requirements of the destination country which are subject to change at any time.

AUSTRALIA: IREGS link @ http://www.aqis.gov.au/icon32/asp/ex_querycontent.asp

Import permit and health certifications are required prior to export. Each consignment must be accompanied by the import permit and health certificate. Each donor requires its

AUSTRALIA (continued)

own Health Certificate. The health certificate is issued by the accredited private practitioner then endorsed by a VS federal veterinarian. Without the proper certification documents upon arrival in Australia, the semen may be quarantined, re-exported or destroyed at exporter/owner expense.

Donor dogs must reside in the United States at the time of semen collection; additionally, donors and semen must meet the requirements indicated in the on-line Animal Health Certificates Appendices 2 and 3, or 2 and 4 as appropriate. Dogs under quarantine for any reason are not eligible as donors. Rabies vaccination requirements and health tests for canine brucellosis/ leptospirosis are identified in the health certificate.

The accredited private practitioner attests to the health of the dog—free from evidence of venereal disease, not under quarantine—and performs or directly supervises the semen collection. The rabies vaccination certificate, blood test results for canine brucellosis / leptospirosis along with the health certificate are submitted to the VS federal veterinarian. The VS federal veterinarian evaluates the certifications, endorses and applies the official government seal to the signed health certificate, places the official seal on the shipping container and records the seal number on the health certificate.

Semen is shipped in a sealed container with donor's identification and consigned to the Port Veterinary Officer in the State of import. The semen shipping container must be either new OR emptied, inspected, loose straws removed and the container disinfected with one of the following accepted disinfectants: Virkon, 2% chlorine, 35% formaldehyde, or irradiated at 50kGy. The liquid nitrogen must be new and unused.

CHILE: IREGS site @ http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/animals/ci_cn_se.pdf

The semen must be accompanied by a health certificate issued and signed by a licensed veterinarian and endorsed by a VS federal veterinarian. The bilingual health certificate indicates the identity of the donor, identity of the straws/ampoules/tubes, date of collection, name and address of the exporter (consignor) and importer (consignee).

There are two health certifications: 1) the donor was under the supervision of a veterinarian who certifies that at the time of collection and during the 30 days prior to collection, the animal did not show any clinical signs of infectious disease and 2) the donor did not show any clinical signs of rabies during the 15 days after the collection of the semen. The health certificate is signed by the private practitioner and the VS federal veterinarian endorses/seals it.

GREAT BRITAIN: IREGS site @ http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/animals/uk_cn_se.pdf

An import permit (license) must be obtained and is valid for 8 months from the date of issue, unless previously revoked. Unlike Australia, Chile and New Zealand, Great

Britain does not currently have a health certificate available on-line. Therefore, the health certificate to use is *APHIS Form 7001 United States Interstate and International Certificate of Health Examination for Small Animals*, available from your state AVIC. The semen is eligible for export 6 months after completion of collection.

The health certificate includes a full description of the donor dog, its permanent and government approved identification, name and address of owner, name and address of the collection premises and date of collection. Additional attestations are that the donor dog has not been in quarantine nor out of the United States during the 12 months prior to semen collection, and no live rabies vaccine was administered during the 6 months preceding semen collection. Again, the semen must be held for 6 months following collection; likewise, the donor must be examined by the private practitioner and found healthy 6 months following collection and so certified.

Each sealed immediate container (straw/ampoule) must be permanently identified both on the container and on APHIS Form 7001. The immediate containers are securely packed in a shipping container that must be unused or sterile and contain only semen that meets these standards. Upon arrival at the destination address in Great Britain, non disposable items must be cleaned and disinfected—disposable wrapping material incinerated.

Storage premises require government supervision/approval, presence of no animals and confirmation that no cases of rabies occurred on the premises during the preceding 12 months. Also, there must have been no cases of rabies on the premises during the period between semen collection and its exportation.

The accredited private practitioner initiates the certificate which is then endorsed and sealed by the VS federal veterinarian.

NEW ZEALAND: IREGS link @

<http://www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/imports/animals/standards/dogsemic.nam.pdf>

Import permit and health certificate are required prior to export. Each consignment must be accompanied by the import permit and health certificate. The semen must be collected by or under the supervision of a registered veterinary officer. The donor must be examined prior to and between 3 – 6 weeks after the semen collection and must have shown no clinical evidence of any infectious or contagious diseases during the process.

Each donor requires its own health certificate. Donor rabies vaccination requirements, health test protocols for canine brucellosis/leptospirosis, and treatments are stated in the health certificate. Donor's identity and date of collection must be permanently marked on the ampoules, straws or pellets as well as the health certificate. Semen from the following breeds of dogs is not eligible for export to New Zealand: Brazilian Fila, Dogo Argentino, American Pit Bull Terrier, and Japanese Tosa.

Extender or diluent requirements: no un-sterilized substance of animal origin has been added and if egg yolk is used, the eggs must have originated from flocks free from

NEW ZEALAND (continued)

Newcastle disease and avian influenza—this disease status certification must be made by an official veterinarian from the country where the eggs originated.

The immediate containers of semen (ampoules, straws or pellets) must be sealed at the time of collection and held in approved storage until examination prior to export. These immediate containers are to be securely packaged in a new shipping container OR a shipping container that was cleaned and sterilized before use. Also, the refrigerant must not have been used for any other purpose.

The accredited private practitioner submits the rabies vaccination certificate, blood test results for canine brucellosis / leptospirosis and treatments, if applicable, along with the health certificate to the VS federal veterinarian. The VS federal veterinarian evaluates the certifications, endorses and applies the official government seal to the signed health certificate, places the official seal on the shipping container and records the seal number on the health certificate.

CLOSING

USDA APHIS VS functions to facilitate international trade and protect the United States' credibility by insuring the health certification process is properly executed and the international health certificate documents are accurately completed. The destination country requirements as we know of are available on the IREGS for all to use.

USDA APHIS VS National Center for Import Export (NCIE) would appreciate being notified of requirements discovered by private practitioners when exporting to a country that does not have requirements listed on the IREGS – whether or not federal endorsement is required. Please forward this information to:

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