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| United States Department of Agriculture | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service | Veterinary Services National Center For Import And Export Import/Export Products 4700 River Road, Unit 40 Riverdale MD 20737-1231 |
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GUIDELINES FOR IMPORTING #1102

June 17, 1997

Specimens from: FELINES (all), & CANINES (& related) (other than cultured cells or tissue in serum media)

[to include blood, tissues, serum, feces, extracts, fluids, urine, etc;

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

Materials derived from all animals are potentially subject to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and must be cleared by USDA inspectors at the port of arrival before entry into the United States is authorized. A USDA permit is required for animal specimens that pose a risk of introducing epizootic livestock or poultry diseases exotic to the United States. However, specimens from cats and dogs that have not been inoculated with or exposed to any livestock or poultry disease agents may be brought into the country without USDA restrictions.

PROCEDURES:

A USDA import permit will not be required for specimens from dog and cat or related species if shipments can meet the following conditions:

- 1) The species of origin or type of animal (cat or dog) is clearly identified and does not include any equine, ruminant, swine or avian species or material in transport media.
- 2) There is a statement with the shipment that clarifies that the study the animals were involved with did not include inoculation with or exposure to any infectious agents of agricultural concern.

The information in items 1-2 needs to be supplied with each shipment in a clear and concise manner and be available for the USDA Port of Entry Inspector's review. We recommend that a separate memo or letter be included with the shipping documents, such as U.S. Customs declaration and invoice.

Please instruct your shippers to provide this information.

If the above information is not supplied, the shipment will be subject to delays. If the specimens to be imported cannot meet these criteria, then a USDA import permit must be applied for. Please contact National Center for Import-Export for application forms.