



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Washington, DC
20250

VETERINARY SERVICES NOTICE 99-09

Subject: Requirements for Canadian Captive Cervids Being Imported
into the United States

Date: April 13, 199

To: Directors, VS Regions
Area Veterinarians in Charge, VS
Port Veterinarians, VS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has reviewed the requirements for importation of Canadian captive cervids and has developed a protocol for importation.

We believe the enclosed protocol will clarify the requirements for importation and will facilitate uniform trade policies between the two countries.

/signed/

Alfonso Torres
Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services

Enclosure



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PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CERVIDS FROM CANADA

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1.1 No import permit is required if the cervids are offered for entry at a land border port and meet one of the following conditions: (a) were born in the U.S. or Canada and have been in no other region, or (b) were legally imported into Canada from some other region and have been unconditionally released and eligible to move freely within Canada for at least 60 days after such release. In any other case the importer must obtain an import permit from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, National Center for Import-Export, 4700 River Road, Unit 39, Riverdale, Maryland 20737-1231.

1.2 An official health certificate is required. The official health certificate must be issued by a veterinarian designated by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and must be endorsed by a veterinarian employed by CFIA attesting to the certifications and tests required in this protocol.

1.3 Cervids described on the health certificate are all captive farmed. Animals born in the wild are ineligible for entry under this protocol. Properly identified cervids under 6 months of age, traveling at the side of their dam, are exempted from the test requirements.

1.4 All cervids must be identified with an official unique individual eartag or tattoo, and must also have a large readable bangle eartag which allows the bangle numbers to be checked without offloading the animals. Bangle tag numbers and corresponding official tag or tattoo numbers must be recorded on the health certificate.

1.5 The health certificate must contain the certification statements as listed in the following section. The dates and results of the tuberculosis and brucellosis testing must be recorded on the health certificate.

2. CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS

2.1 Canada is free of foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, contagious pleuropneumonia, and surra.

2.2 Continuous records of animal identification and herds of residence of the animal being exported from the time of birth until export were verified.

2.3 Herd of origin status:

(a) Chronic wasting disease has never been diagnosed in the herd of origin.

(b) The herd of origin is a tuberculosis herd of negative status according to the provisions of the CFIA captive ungulate program, and there has been no direct or indirect contact between the herd of origin and any known tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*) infected source.

(c) The herd of origin is located not less than forty (40) kilometers from any known *Mycobacterium bovis*, *Brucella abortus* or chronic wasting disease infected wild population.

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- (d) The herd of origin does not contain animals from any herd where tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*), or brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*) has ever been diagnosed.
- (e) Neither tuberculosis nor brucellosis has been diagnosed on the premises of origin during the five (5) years preceding the start of testing for export.
- (f) On the premises of origin, there are no *M. bovis* susceptible ruminants, that have not attained the status of a herd officially recognized free of tuberculosis or a herd of negative status for tuberculosis under the Canadian Animal Health Program for Farmed Cervids.

2.4 The animal intended for export is not the direct offspring of an animal that has been diagnosed with chronic wasting disease nor has it resided at any time in a herd in which the disease has been diagnosed.

2.5 If less than one year of age, the animals intended for export were natural additions to the herd of origin.

2.6 Animals intended for export which were added to the herd of origin, except natural additions or animals from other tuberculosis herds of negative status or U.S. Accredited Free herds, have been included in a recertification test.

2.7 During the 60 days prior to export to the United States, the cervids selected for export and the herd of origin remained free from symptoms of infectious or contagious disease, and free of any known exposure to such disease.

3. TESTING REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Tuberculosis - Within 60 days prior to export, each cervid must be tested with negative results for bovine tuberculosis using the Canadian Mid-Cervical Test (MCT). Any cervid classified as a responder to the MCT is ineligible for entry. However, if the status of all responders can be established by comparative testing, or by post-mortem examination and tissue culture, negative contact animals may be considered for entry.

3.2 Brucellosis - Within 30 days prior to export, cervids must test negative to a buffered plate antigen test for *Brucella abortus*. Should an animal test positive, it is ineligible for entry. It must be removed from the group and test negative to a complement fixation test at a dilution of 1:5 in order for the test negative contact animals to be considered for entry.

4. PORT OF ENTRY INSPECTION

Cervids for U.S. entry must be presented to the port by appointment. The port veterinarian shall conduct a visual health examination of the cervids and verify individual identification and the correctness of the health certificate.