

APRIL 4 1994

VETERINARY SERVICES NOTICE

Subject: Importation of Hedgehogs and Tenrecs/Health Certification  
and Import Permits

To: Directors, VS Regions  
Area Veterinarians in Charge, VS  
Deputy Administrator, PPQ

This Notice replaces Veterinary Services (VS) Notice of May 14, 1991,  
Importation of Hedgehogs.

This Notice is to inform U.S. importers, VS personnel, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) personnel, brokers, and other interested persons of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy that all import shipments of hedgehogs and tenrecs require permits and health certification. Permits will not be issued on hedgehogs and tenrecs originating in countries affected with foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). Entry will be refused to hedgehogs and tenrecs without permits and any hedgehog or tenrec found to be infested with ticks.

Shipments from countries recognized as free of FMD must be accompanied by an import permit issued by USDA and a health certificate signed by a salaried veterinarian of the exporting country. To apply for a permit, an importer must complete a VS Form 17-129, Application for Import Permit, and submit it to USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, VS, Import-Export Animals Staff, 6505 Belcrest Road, Room 764 Federal Building, Hyattsville, MD 20782; (301) 436-8170 and FAX (301) 436-6402. The health certificate must verify that the "hedgehogs and/or tenrecs in the shipment have been produced on the source premises and there have been no importations to this premises from Africa and/or those countries of Asia, Europe, and South America where FMD exists." Hedgehogs and tenrecs will be allowed entry only through ports where VS veterinarians are available to inspect them. They must be inspected and found free of external parasites. Any shipment that lacks a permit and/or health certificate, or that is found to be infested with ticks, will be refused entry and must be returned to the country of origin or destroyed under the supervision of the Port Veterinarian. A disposal order must be signed by the importer, or his agent, before the animals are euthanized.

Hedgehogs are known to be susceptible to FMD, and it has been reported that they may harbor the virus for a considerable time period, especially during hibernation.

This notice restricts the importation of all hedgehogs including European, African, and Egyptian strains. This restriction includes tenrecs because of their close identification with hedgehogs. Hedgehogs and tenrecs can also introduce non-indigenous ticks that may serve as disease vectors or introduce diseases of livestock that are exotic to the United States.

Importers will be charged under the User Fees regulations at the rate of \$50 per hour, with a minimum charge of \$16. Overtime charges are extra.

/S/

Donald W. Luchsinger  
Acting Deputy Administrator  
Veterinary Services

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