

VETERINARY SERVICES NOTICE

Subject: Free-ranging Reindeer Imported From Canada

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

This Notice provides U.S. importers/brokers, Veterinary Services (VS) personnel, veterinarians, and other interested persons with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requirements for the importation of free-ranging reindeer originating in Canada.

All Cervidae for export to the United States must be identified by an official Agriculture Canada ear tag, as well as a large (readable) bangle tag. The bangle tags must be numbered in a manner that will uniquely identify each individual animal in the shipment. All ear tag numbers must be recorded on the Agriculture Canada health certificate.

The importer must apply for an import permit from the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, VS, Import-Export Animals Staff, Room 764, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782. The reindeer must be accompanied by the import permit, an official Agriculture Canada health certificate, and test charts pertaining to the shipment.

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) TESTING

The official test to be used on reindeer is the single strength cervical test using bovine purified protein derivative tuberculin. All animals in the group destined for importation must have two negative single cervical tests no less than 90 days apart.

Any responders must be removed and will not be eligible for entry into the United States. In order for the test negative animals to remain eligible, the responder must test negative on a single strength comparative cervical test conducted within 10 days or more than 90 days after the last TB test. The importer also has the option of having the animal necropsied to look for signs of TB on cultures or histopathology. Any herd that has a history of Mycobacterium bovis infection, at any time, is not eligible to provide animals for export to the United States.

BRUCELLOSIS TESTING

Due to the high incidence of Brucella suis in free-ranging reindeer in Canada, the group of animals destined for import must be held in isolation. These animals will be tested for B. suis every 30 days and the positive animals will be removed. When all animals are negative, the reindeer should then be moved to clean (unexposed) pens.

The group of negative animals must then test negative on three occasions to Brucellosis tests given at 90-day intervals. These three tests must encompass the breeding period.

Donald W. Luchsinger
Acting Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services

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