To all Veterinarians

RE: EXPORT OF DOGS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TO AUSTRALIA

Dear Colleagues,

The Directorate of Animal Health has been informed that there have been numerous incidences where the Republic of South Africa does not comply with the export regulations of dogs. Australia’s Veterinary Authority has informed the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries that more than fifteen percent of exports from South Africa are non-compliant.

The following non-compliances have been noted by the Australian Veterinary Authorities in regard to:

1. **Babesia canis rossi treatment:**

The Australian import requirements regarding *Babesia canis rossi* are as follow for dogs from the RSA:

1.1 The dog must either be treated with a single dose Imidocarb diproprionate at a rate of 7.5mg/kg body weight, **OR**
1.2 Two doses of Imidocarb diproprionate at a rate of 6.0 mg/kg body weight given at least 14 days apart.
1.3 Treatments must be given by subcutaneous injection, within 28 days before export.

If the veterinarian feels uncomfortable administering a higher (7.5mg/kg) than recommended dose (6.6mg/kg) of Imizol, then rather administer the two doses of Imidocarb diproprionate at a rate of 6.0 mg/kg body weight at least 14 days apart, within 28 days of export.

The relevant veterinary authority should not certify that a once of dose of 7.5mg/kg has been given if a dose of only 6.6mg/kg per body weight has been given, once off. This is regarded as false certification and will be dealt with accordingly.

2. **External parasite treatment and Ehrlichia canis:**


This treatment must be applied at least 21 days prior to the blood collection for the *Ehrlichia canis* test and maintained, up until the day of export. Blood must be collected at least 21 days prior to the date of export. Some dogs had their blood sampled less than 21 days prior to the date of export. The Australian import requirements state the following:

"The dog must be tested with a negative result for Ehrlichia canis at a dilution of 1:40 using an indirect fluorescent antibody test, on a blood sample collected within 45 days before export and at least 21 days after a compliant external parasite treatment has been applied, and repeated as necessary."
If a dog was imported and found to test positive for *Ehrlichia canis*, it is then returned to the country of origin or euthanised.

3. **Veterinary Health Certificate endorsement:**

The microchip numbers on the Veterinary Health Certificate should match the other export documentation as well as the animal itself, which will be exported to Australia. The microchip number must thus be scanned at every veterinary visit when the animal is subject to examination, testing and treatment before the export to Australia.

The Veterinary Health Certificate should be endorsed by an official state veterinarian and not be certified and endorsed by the private veterinarian.

4. **Laboratory reports accompanying the animal:**

Laboratory reports are occasionally missing important details such as the test type that was performed, the test result, the blood sample date as well as the microchip number. This could potentially lead to further testing during quarantine, which carries additional expense for the importer. The Australian import requirements state:

“All testing must be conducted in an approved country and in a laboratory recognised by the government of the country of export. All laboratory reports are in English and list the microchip number stated on the import permit, the date of blood sample collection for testing, and the testing method.”


Any non-compliance in regard to export certification of domestic animals, exported to Australia, could result in the animals either being euthanised or returned at the importer’s expense.

Kind regards

[Signature]

DR MPH MAJA
DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL HEALTH
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