

National Scrapie Eradication Program

Information for Zoos and Registered Exhibitors



Domestic and nontraditional livestock that are sheep or goat species, as well as captive wild sheep and goats, are subject to the requirements for sheep and goats in title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, parts 54 and 79 (9 CFR § 54 and 79). All domestic species and captive animals of the genus *Ovis* are considered to be sheep, and all domestic species and captive animals of the genus *Capra* are considered to be goats.

It is important to correctly identify sheep and goats in order to successfully eradicate scrapie from the United States. Exotic sheep, such as Mouflon, are known to be susceptible to scrapie. Other exotic sheep and goats may also be susceptible to scrapie, and could potentially transmit the disease to domestic sheep and goats when they are maintained together. Therefore, it is important to individually identify all captive sheep and goats when they are moved or exhibited, including those kept at zoos. This is discussed in the preamble of the final rule entitled “Scrapie in Sheep and Goats; Interstate Movement Restrictions and Indemnity Program,” published in the Federal Register on August 21, 2001, pages 43964-44003.

Domestic and exotic sheep and goats housed in American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA)-accredited zoological parks (zoos) may be identified in accordance with AZA accreditation standards while on exhibit in or while in transit between AZA-accredited facilities, provided that the records required in 9 CFR 79 are properly maintained and linked to the facilities’ internal identification systems. However, when sheep and goats of the classes required to be identified in 9 CFR 79 are moved in interstate commerce to or from a facility that is not AZA-accredited, the sheep and goats must have official U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) identification.

Information on identification and record keeping requirements can be found in 9 CFR § 79.2 and in Part III of the Scrapie Eradication Uniform Methods and Rules, both of which can be downloaded from http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/.

Official eartags may be obtained by calling 1-866-USDA-TAG (1-866-873-2824).

The following are a list of the classes of sheep and goats that are required to be identified and a list of the classes of sheep and goats that are not required to be identified in interstate commerce.

Animals required to be officially identified include the following:

- a. All breeding sheep;
- b. All sexually intact sheep and goats for exhibition;
- c. All sheep over 18 months old;
- d. All scrapie exposed and high-risk animals including all low-risk exposed animals, genetically susceptible exposed animals, genetically less susceptible exposed animals, and genetically resistant exposed sheep;

- e. All scrapie suspect and test-positive animals;
- f. Animals from noncompliant flocks; and
- g. Breeding goats, except low-risk commercial goats.

Animals not required to be individually identified include the following:

- a. Slaughter sheep (sheep in slaughter channels) under 18 months
(**Note:** if a sexually intact sheep is sold at an unrestricted sale [any sale that is not a slaughter or feeding for slaughter sale], it must be identified. If these animals cannot be identified to flock of origin, they must be identified with slaughter only tags.);
- b. Wethers for exhibition and wethers under 18 months old;
- c. Slaughter goats (goats in slaughter channels);
- d. Low-risk commercial goats;
- e. Animals shipped directly to an approved slaughter facility or an approved market when all the animals in a section of a truck are from the same premises of origin and are accompanied by an owner's statement (**Note:** The owner's statement must contain the information needed for the plant or market to identify the animals); and
- f. Animals moved for grazing or similar management reasons whenever the animals are moved from a premises owned or leased by the owner of the animals to another premises owned or leased by the owner of the animals.

Note: some States have additional ID requirements. A list of State sheep and goat ID requirements is available at www.eradicatescrapie.org.

