

**USDA APHIS VETERINARY SERVICES
STRATEGY & POLICY
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION
OF HEDGEHOGS AND TENRECS**

May 2016, Updated October 2020

This protocol describes the conditions required to import hedgehogs and tenrecs according to regulations found in 9 CFR Part 93. The USDA APHIS species definition for hedgehogs and tenrecs:

- **Hedgehogs include all members of the family Erinaceidae**
- **Tenrecs include all members of the family Tenrecidae**

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- 1.1 Hedgehogs and tenrecs may only be imported into the United States (U.S.) from a region designated as a free of foot-and-mouth disease. A list of countries/regions free of foot-and-mouth disease can be found on the USDA APHIS webpage: [Animal Health Statuses of Regions](#).
- 1.2 No person may import a hedgehog into the U.S. from New Zealand.
- 1.3 The importer must obtain an import permit from:

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Veterinary Services (VS),
Strategy & Policy (S&P)
Unit 39, 4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231

Telephone: (301) 851-3300, option 2
FAX: (301) 734-4704

Web Site: [USDA APHIS | Import: Bring Live Animals Into the United States](#)

The application, VS Form 17-129, “Application for Import or in Transit Permit,” may be obtained by writing or emailing S&P (VS.Live.Animal.Import.Export@usda.gov), or by downloading it from the APHIS web site https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/forms/ct_vs_forms

- 1.4 An official health certificate is required. The official health certificate must be issued by a full time salaried veterinary officer of the national government of the exporting region, **OR** the certificate may be issued by a veterinarian authorized or accredited by the national government of the exporting region and endorsed by a full time salaried veterinary officer of the national government of that region.

2. HEALTH CERTIFICATIONS

- 1.1. The Health Certificate must include:
 - 1.1.1. The name and physical address of the importer (and the physical address of final destination, if different).

**USDA APHIS VETERINARY SERVICES
STRATEGY & POLICY
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION
OF HEDGEHOGS AND TENRECS**

May 2016, Updated October 2020

- 1.1.2. The number, breed, species, and description of hedgehogs/tenrecs (age in months, sex, markings) to be exported, and purpose of the exportation.
 - 1.1.3. The address or other means of identifying the premises of origin, and any other premises where the animals resided immediately prior to export.
 - 1.1.4. Any identification numbers of official seals that have been applied to the enclosure, if applicable.
 - 1.2. The hedgehog or tenrec originated in a region that has been recognized by USDA APHIS as free of foot-and-mouth disease.
 - 1.3. The hedgehog or tenrec has never been in a region where foot-and-mouth disease exists.
 - 1.4. The hedgehog or tenrec has not been commingled with any other hedgehog or tenrec that originated in or has ever been in a region where foot-and-mouth disease exists.
 - 1.5. The hedgehog(s) and/ or tenrec(s) was/ were inspected by the individual issuing the health certificate and was/ were found free of ectoparasites not more than 72 hours before being loaded on the conveyance transporting the animal(s) to the U.S.
 - 1.6. All body surfaces of the animal(s) were treated for ectoparasites under the supervision of the veterinarian issuing the health certificate at least 3 days, but not more than 14 days, before being loaded on the conveyance that transported the animal to the U.S.
 - 1.7. The pesticide and the concentration used would kill the types of ectoparasites that may infest the animal to be imported.
 - 1.8. The animal(s), after being treated for ectoparasites, had physical contact or shared a pen, or bedding materials, *only* with treated hedgehogs or tenrecs in the same shipment to the U.S.
 - 1.9. The name and concentration of the pesticide used to treat the animals is listed on the health certificate.
 - 1.10. All animals must be treated for ectoparasites (in accordance with this section) prior to export, and again at the time of entry to the United States. Since some animals covered under this protocol may be especially sensitive to chemical treatments, S&P, Live Animal Imports or FiOps staff veterinarians may be consulted as needed by importers or APHIS field staff regarding acceptable types of ectoparasite treatments for individual species.
- 3. DESIGNATED PORTS OF ENTRY:** A hedgehog or tenrec may be imported into the United States through the following ports:

**USDA APHIS VETERINARY SERVICES
STRATEGY & POLICY
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION
OF HEDGEHOGS AND TENRECS**

May 2016, Updated October 2020

- 3.1. Air and ocean ports: Anchorage and Fairbanks, AK; San Diego and Los Angeles, CA; Denver, CO; Jacksonville, Miami, St. Petersburg-Clearwater, and Tampa, FL; Atlanta, GA; Chicago, IL; New Orleans, LA; Portland, ME; Baltimore, MD; Boston, MA; Minneapolis, MN; Great Falls, MT; Newburgh, NY; Portland, OR; San Juan, PR; Galveston and Houston, TX; and Seattle, Spokane, and Tacoma, WA.
- 3.2. Canadian border ports: Eastport, ID; Houlton and Jackman, ME; Detroit, Port Huron, and Sault Ste. Marie, MI; Opheim, Raymond, and Sweetgrass, MT; Alexandria Bay, Buffalo, and Champlain, NY; Dunseith, Pembina, and Portal, ND; Derby Line and Highgate Springs, VT; Oroville and Sumas, WA.
- 3.3. Mexican border ports: Douglas, Naco, Nogales, Sasabe, and San Luis, AZ; Calexico and San Ysidro, CA; Antelope Wells, and Columbus, NM; and Brownsville, Hidalgo, Laredo, Eagle Pass, Del Rio, Presidio, and El Paso, TX.

4. PORT OF ENTRY INSPECTION

- 4.1. A hedgehog or tenrec from any part of the world must be inspected by an APHIS inspector at the port of entry (the first port of arrival into the U.S.). A shipment of hedgehogs or tenrecs may enter the United States only if each hedgehog or tenrec in the shipment is found free of ectoparasites and any clinical signs of communicable diseases.
- 4.2. If any hedgehog or tenrec in the shipment is found to be infested with ectoparasites or demonstrates any clinical signs of communicable diseases, then the entire shipment will be refused entry.

5. ANIMALS REFUSED ENTRY

- 5.1. Any hedgehog or tenrec refused entry into the United States for noncompliance with requirements of this protocol will be removed from the U.S. within a time period specified by the Administrator or shall be considered abandoned by the importer. Pending removal or abandonment, the animal will be subject to safeguards as the inspector determines necessary to prevent the possible introduction of ectoparasites into the U.S.
- 5.2. The importer will be given the following options:
 - 5.2.1. Remove the shipment from the United States;
 - 5.2.2. **OR** the shipment may be released to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Administrator will destroy or otherwise dispose of the shipment as necessary.
- 5.3. If an animal that has been refused entry is not removed from the United States within the

**USDA APHIS VETERINARY SERVICES
STRATEGY & POLICY
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION
OF HEDGEHOGS AND TENRECS**

May 2016, Updated October 2020

prescribed time period or is abandoned, it may be seized, destroyed, or otherwise disposed of as the Administrator determines necessary to prevent the possible introduction of ectoparasites into the United States.

6. UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (USFWS) PERMIT INFORMATION

- 6.1 USFWS regulates the import of all species of wildlife, and species protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). These regulations are part of an international conservation effort to protect exotic wildlife subject to trade. For listed species, all required CITES permits must accompany the animal.

- 6.2 USFWS website: <https://fws.gov>

7. STATE REGULATIONS

- 7.1 States and municipalities may have specific regulations concerning importation and/or possession of hedgehogs and tenrecs. Some ban the import of these animals, including Georgia, California, Hawaii, Pennsylvania, Washington, DC, and all five boroughs of New York City.

- 7.2 **It is the responsibility of the importer to check for this information.** Please contact the state veterinary authority in the destination state for more information on local laws: [State Regulations and Import Requirements](#).

----MODEL HEALTH CERTIFICATE ON NEXT PAGE----

**Veterinary Health Certificate for Export of
Hedgehogs and Tenrecs to the United States of America**

Veterinary Authority

Date of Issue

Certificate Number

CERTIFICATION:

The animal(s) described below have been inspected, tested for any of the diseases specified, and conform the current veterinary requirements of the United States.

1. Consignor:

2. Consignee:

3. Country of Origin:

4. County of Origin:

5. Country of Destination:

6. State of Destination:

7. Place of Origin:

8. Port of Embarkation / Border Crossing:

9. Date of Shipment:

10. Means of Transport:

11. Description of Commodity:

12. Date of Veterinary Inspection:

13. Total Quantity:

14. Total Number of Packages/Containers:

15. Container Numbers

16. Commodities Intended Use:

17. Identification of Commodities:

| Species/common name | Age (Months) | Sex | Number, description |
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**Veterinary Health Certificate for Export of
Hedgehogs and Tenrecs to the United States of America**

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Veterinary Authority | Date of Issue | Certificate Number |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|

Certification Statements:

1. The hedgehog or tenrec originated in a country/region that has been recognized as free of foot-and-mouth disease by the USDA. See [USDA APHIS | Animal Health Status of Regions](#) .for reference.
2. The hedgehog or tenrec has never been in a region where foot-and-mouth disease exists.
3. The hedgehog or tenrec has not been commingled with any other hedgehog or tenrec that originated in, or has ever been in, a region where foot-and-mouth disease exists.
4. On.....(date), not more than 72 hours prior to loading for export, I examined the above animals and found them to be free from clinical signs or symptoms of infectious or contagious disease, including infestation with ectoparasites and, in my opinion, fit for the intended journey.
5. On..... (date), being at least 72 hours, but not more than 14 days prior to loading, the said animals were treated under my supervision for the removal of external parasites. The concentration used killed the types of ectoparasites that may have infested the animal to be imported. The following licensed product was used:

Name of product:

Active ingredient:
6. The animals for export, after being treated as specified in statement 5 above, did not come into physical contact, or share a pen or bedding, with any other animals apart from those hedgehogs or tenrecs similarly treated for the same consignment to the USA.
7. I have received a written declaration from the owner/exporter that the crates and vehicles for transport will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with an approved disinfectant prior to loading.

Seal number(s):

Name of Official Veterinarian (Printed)

Signature of Official Veterinarian

Date