TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 2010 REPORT

CHAPTER 8.10.

RABIES

Article 8.10.1.

General provisions

Rabies is a disease caused by any member of the *Lyssavirus* genus. All mammals including human are susceptible to infection. Carnivora and Chiroptera are the reservoirs for rabies.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*:

1. a *case* is any animal infected with the *Rabies virus* species;

2. the *incubation period* for rabies is variable, but will be considered less than 6 months, and the *infective period* for dogs, cats and ferrets is considered to start 10 days before the onset of the first apparent clinical signs.

The aim of this chapter is to mitigate the risk related to rabies for international trade and non-commercial movements of rabies susceptible species.

The most important species for international trade purposes are domestic carnivores (primarily dogs (*Canis familiaris*), cats (*Felis catus)* and ferrets (*Mustela putorius furo*)) and also include domestic livestock (equids, ruminants and suids).

Rabies can be suspected based on clinical signs or history of exposure to a rabid animal. Confirmation requires antigen detection or virus isolation. Standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Members are encouraged to implement and maintain a programme for the management of stray dog populations consistent with Chapter 7.7.

Article 8.10.2.

Rabies free country

A country may be considered free from rabies when:

1. the disease is notifiable and any change in the epidemiological situation or relevant events should be reported in accordance with Chapter 1.1.;

2. an effective system of *disease surveillance* has been in operation for the last 2 years, with a minimum requirement being an on-going early detection programme to ensure investigation and reporting of rabies suspect animals;

3. regulatory measures for the prevention of rabies are implemented consistent with the recommendations in this Chapter, including effective procedures for the importation of domestic dogs, cats and ferrets;

4. no *case* of indigenously acquired *rabies virus* infection has been confirmed during the past 2 years;

5. no imported *case* in reservoir species has been confirmed outside a *quarantine station* for the past 6 months;

6. an imported human *case* of rabies will not affect the rabies free status.

Members should implement and maintain a programme for the management of stray dog populations consistent with Chapter 7.7.

Article 8.10.3.

Country free from dog to dog transmission of rabies

A country may be considered free from dog to dog transmission of rabies when:

1. the disease is notifiable and any change in the epidemiological situation or relevant events are reported in accordance with Chapter 1.1.;

2. an effective system of *disease surveillance* has been in operation for the last 2 years, with a minimum requirement being an on-going early detection programme to ensure investigation and reporting of suspect animals;

3. regulatory measures for the prevention and control of rabies are implemented consistent with the recommendations in this Chapter, including vaccination, identification and effective procedures for the importation of domestic dogs, cats and ferrets;

4. thorough epidemiological investigations have demonstrated no case of dog to dog transmission of rabies during the past 2 years.

Members should implement and maintain a programme for the management of stray dog populations consistent with Chapter 7.7.

Article 8.10.4.

Recommendations for importation from rabies free countries

<u>for domestic mammals, and captive wild mammals</u>

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of rabies the day prior to or on the day of shipment;

2. and either

   a) were kept since birth or at least 6 months prior to shipment in the free country; or

   b) were imported in conformity with the regulations stipulated in Articles 8.10.7., 8.10.8., 8.10.9. or 8.10.10.

Article 8.10.5.

Recommendations for importation from rabies free countries

for wild mammals

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of rabies the day prior to or on the day of shipment;

2. and either

   a) have been captured and remained in a rabies free country, at a sufficient distance, based on the biology of species, including home range, from any infected country. The distance should be defined according to the species exported and the reservoir species in the neighbouring infected countries; or

   b) were kept for the 6 months prior to shipment in a rabies free country.

Article 8.10.6

Recommendations for importation of dogs from countries free from dog to dog transmission of rabies

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the dogs:

1. were kept for at least the 6 months prior to shipment in a country free from dog to dog transmission of rabies;

2. were permanently identified (e.g, by a microchip or tattoo) and the identification number should be stated in the *certificate*;

3. received, prior to shipment, a valid anti-rabies vaccination, in accordance with the *Terrestrial Manual*, or revaccination if applicable, in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer;

4. showed no clinical sign of rabies the day prior to or on the day of shipment;

Article 8.10.7.

Recommendations for importation of dogs, cats and ferrets from countries considered infected with rabies

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of rabies the day prior to or on the day of shipment;

AND EITHER

2. were permanently identified (e.g., by a microchip or tattoo) and their identification number should be stated in the *certificate*; and

3. received, prior to shipment, a valid anti-rabies vaccination in accordance with the *Terrestrial Manual*, or revaccination if applicable, in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer; and

4. were subjected not less than 3 months and not more than 12 months prior to shipment to an antibody titration test as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual* with a positive result;

OR

5. have not been vaccinated against rabies or do not meet all the conditions set out in points 2, 3 and 4 above; in such cases, the animals should be quarantined for 6 months prior to export.

Article 8.10.8.

Recommendations for importation of domestic ruminants and suids from countries considered infected with rabies

Annex XVIII (contd)

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the *animals* showed no clinical sign of rabies the day prior to or on the day of shipment.

Article 8.10.9.

Recommendations for importation of domestic equids from countries considered infected with rabies

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of rabies the day prior to or on the day of shipment;

2. and either;

   a) were kept for the 6 months prior to shipment in an *establishment* where no contact with reservoir species was maintained and where no *case* of rabies was reported for at least 12 months prior to shipment; or

   b) were vaccinated as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Article 8.10.10.

Recommendations for importation from countries considered infected with rabies

for rodents and lagomorphs born and reared in a biosecure facility

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of rabies on the day of shipment;

2. were kept since birth in a biosecure facility an *establishment* where no *case* of rabies was reported for at least 12 months prior to shipment.

Article 8.10.11.

Recommendations for importation from countries considered infected with rabies

for captive wild animals (other than non-human primates)

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of rabies the day prior to or on the day of shipment;

2. were kept since birth, or for the 6 months prior to shipment, in an *establishment* where no contact with reservoir species and where no *case* of rabies was reported for at least 12 months prior to shipment.

Article 8.10.12.

Recommendations for importation from countries considered infected with rabies

for *wild* and *feral animals* (other than non-human primates and Chiroptera)

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of rabies the day prior to or on the day of shipment;

2. were kept for the 6 months prior to shipment in an *establishment* where separation from wild animals and feral animals was maintained and where no *case* of rabies was reported for at least 12 months prior to shipment.

Article 8.10.13.

Recommendations for importation from countries considered infected with rabies

for captive non-human primates

1. showed no clinical sign of rabies the day prior to or on the day of shipment;

2. quarantine measures were applied in accordance with Chapter 5.9. and Chapter 6.11.