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IMPORTANT NOTICE

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GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 1662 OF 2009

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

ANIMAL DISEASES ACT, 1984 (ACT NO. 35 OF 1984)

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE ON THE CONSIDERATION TO IMPORT SABLE ANTELOPE FROM ZAMBIA TO SOUTH AFRICA ACCORDING TO GUIDELINES OF THE ATTACHED PROTOCOL.

I, Tina Joemat-Pettersson, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, while cognisant of the need to facilitate trade among African countries, hereby invite public comments on the proposed notice on the consideration to import sable antelope from Zambia utilizing the Importation of Sable Antelope Protocol attached.

Comments must be submitted before 31 January 2010. They must be sent to:

The Director
Directorate: Animal Health
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,
Private Bag X138,
Pretoria 0001
Tel 012 3197456
Fax 012 3297218
Email: PA.DVS@daff.gov.za

PROTOCOL

ON

**THE IMPORTATION
OF SABLE ANTELOPE**

**FROM ZAMBIA TO SOUTH
AFRICA**

BETWEEN

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

AND

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**



In order to safely import live Sable Antelope (*Hippotragus niger kirkii*)(hereafter referred to as Sable) from Zambia to South Africa the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries hereafter referred to as (DAFF) and the Department of Veterinary and Livestock Development hereafter referred to as (DVLD) the following protocol will apply:

ARTICLE 1

COLLECTION OF SPECIMEN DURING QUARANTINE AND ISSUING OF A VETERINARY IMPORT PERMIT

While the Sable Antelope are in quarantine, all specimen collection and tests for diagnostic purposes must be conducted under official veterinary supervision acceptable to DAFF. This can only happen once a Veterinary Import Permit has been issued, and an agreed-upon protocol exists between the veterinary services of South Africa and Zambia

Compliance with the stipulations contained in the protocol and other relevant official policy documents should in all instances be to the satisfaction and criteria acceptable to DAFF

ARTICLE 2

COMMENCEMENT OF QUARANTINE

The commencement of quarantine is dependent on approval of the quarantine facilities in Zambia, and in South Africa. Recommendations have already been made that the relevant South African officials do these inspections as soon as it is possible. Any delay in this process will inevitably cause further delays in the commencement of quarantine. Before official approval of the relevant quarantine facilities has been obtained, quarantine from the perspective of the South African authorities cannot commence in Zambia

ARTICLE 3

PRE-REQUISITES FOR THE QUARANTINE PERIOD:

1. Full traceability of animals and samples for diagnostic purposes must be demonstrated throughout the quarantine period
2. Full records must be kept of:
 - a. Each case: events register (including deaths, births, sample collections, treatments etc.)
 - b. Fly control log
 - c. Rodent control log, and
 - d. Access log
3. No additional cloven-hoofed animals may be released into Lusaka Park during the period of quarantine

4. Failure to comply with the above criteria will compromise the quarantine, and the procedure will start again
5. The quarantine process shall be monitored and audited by an acceptable South African-appointed representative. This person may be a private person appointed by DAFF
6. All animals that die must be subjected to a full necropsy, either by a government veterinarian, or a veterinarian duly authorized for this purpose. Confirmatory samples must be collected and sent through to the ARC-OVI for the required supplementary diagnostic purposes. These specimens should be submitted under cover of an appropriate South African veterinary import permit, depending on the type of specimen
7. All relevant diagnostic tests during the quarantine period must be conducted at the ARC-OVI or other approved (by DAFF) and accredited diagnostic laboratories

ARTICLE 4

PRE-EXPORT QUARANTINE:

Normal protocols according to standard South African veterinary import conditions will apply, including:

1. Full quarantine conditions
2. Full access control
3. Signed register
4. Foot-baths, and
5. Gumboot usage
6. Storage of food within the quarantine unit must be sufficient for 1 month, unless Zambian State Veterinary Department and DAFF give permission to source more.
7. Faecal material and old feed can only be moved out during the period of quarantine under Zambian State Veterinary Department and DAFF permission
8. All feed to be sourced from outside of an endemic or outbreak Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) area, preferably from South Africa
9. All bedding for transport to be sourced from outside of endemic or outbreak FMD area
10. All transport crates to be treated according to requirements of Dept Plant Protection, as is stipulated in current VIP requirements
11. The area in which the current quarantine camp is situated within the Lusaka district must remain FMD free for the duration of the quarantine in Zambia, within a 50 km radius of the quarantine bomas

A 30-day period of quarantine, pre-export and 45 days post-export should provide sufficient time to determine the disease status of the animal, and that they do not become infected with these diseases, or any other disease, during the quarantine period

Pre-export quarantine (minimum of 30 days depending on the outcomes of the various tests)

All animals must be checked against quarantine records

Day 1:

1. All-in, all-out system at beginning of quarantine
2. Animals can only be removed for certain medical reasons in consultation with a supervising state veterinarian, and with DAFF, but will not be re-allowed back into the quarantine. A full diagnostic report should be kept on the quarantine file for each animal that has been removed for this purpose, and for necropsy purposes
3. All animals must be identified with ear tags marked with permanent markers, or with numbers burnt into the ear tags.
4. All animals must be identified with permanent microchips
5. Full inventory list available, with ear tag number, microchip number, sex, age **and relevant holding pen number**
6. All animals must be treated for external and internal parasites

The following tests must be done on Day 1, with negative results:

1. FMD

Liquid-phase blocking ELISA or SNT for serotypes SAT 1, 2, 3, A and O. Any animals positive or suspicious must be removed, and the entire quarantine must be started from the beginning at **DAY 1**, with repeat of all tests.

2. Tuberculosis testing for infection with *Mycobacterium bovis*

Comparative intra-dermal skin testing using avian and bovine tuberculin obtained from Lelystad (cold chain sustained). This re-test must only be done more than 8 weeks after the initial TB intra-dermal test. A tuberculin syringe (single-dose human tuberculin (1cc) syringe) (Not McClintock) must be used to administer the tuberculin intra-dermally. The test must be read on Day 3 after injecting the tuberculin. Each animal must be immobilised, the injection sites palpated and the skin thickness at the injection sites must be measured with an appropriate calliper. Should a positive skin reaction be detected, the whole group of animals will be considered to be infected and will be subject to 5 consecutive negative comparative intra-dermal tests before they will be considered to be free of tuberculosis. Infected, and in-contact, animals within a holding pen shall be removed from the group of animals destined for importation.

3. Brucellosis

Complement Fixation Test (not ELISA) for both *B. abortus bovis* and *B. mellitensis*. Positive animals must be removed and the animals from the infected groups must be retested after a period of 30 days.

4. Trypanosomosis

Animals to be tested using a buffy coat specimen on blotting paper for PCR. All positive animals to be removed from quarantine; all treated with *Berenil*.

5. Theileriosis

PCR and Reverse Line Blot methods. Specific species to be tested for must be determined by the Department of Veterinary Services but the suggestions are they only be tested for the presence of *T. parva*.

6. Treatment for external parasites

Deltamethrin pour-on.

7. CBPP

Methodology to be determined by DAFF

Additional recommendations:

1. Vaccination against anthrax
2. Vaccination against clostridial infections, using multi-antigen vaccine such as *Supavax*

Day 3:

Read skin reactions at tuberculin test sites. Remove all positive reactors. If one animal is positive or suspicious, it must be destroyed for necropsy purposes. Full samples must be collected for further microbiological and histopathological investigation. Samples that must be collected are lymph nodes of the head, neck, thoracic cavity, and any other lesion that may resemble a tuberculous granuloma elsewhere in the body. A decision can be made on the entire consignment after completion of these investigations

Day 21:

Re-test for:

1. FMD – as above
2. *Brucella mellitensis* and *B. abortus bovis* – as above
3. Prophylactic/supportive treatment, where necessary. Treatment for theilerial infections is not allowed.

Day 30:

End of quarantine, animals can be loaded depending on availability of test results

ARTICLE 5**VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATION BY DVLD**

The veterinary services of DVLD must certify compliance to all above on the day of loading and further certify that none of the animals was showing signs of any diseases upon loading. Veterinary services must further certify that there was no occurrence of FMD and any other trans-boundary animal disease affecting cloven hoofed animals in a 30 km radius from the quarantine boma.

ARTICLE 6**POST-IMPORT QUARANTINE**

Normal protocols according to standard South African veterinary import conditions will apply, including

1. Full quarantine conditions
2. Full access control
3. Signed register
4. Foot-baths, and
5. Gumboot usage
6. Storage of food within the quarantine unit must be sufficient for 1 month, unless DAFF/Provincial Veterinary Authority give permission to source more.
7. Faecal material and old feed can only be moved out during the period of quarantine under DAFF/Provincial Veterinary Authority permission
8. All feed and bedding to be sourced from the Disease-Free Zone.

FMD test – as during pre-export quarantine (done at an interval of at least 14 days after the previous test)

ARTICLE 7**RETESTING OF SABLES**

Retesting for the following diseases should be done after an interval of at least 14 days after the first FMD test in South Africa, according the procedures listed for pre-export quarantine, with negative results for:

1. FMD – as above
2. TB, using comparative intra-dermal TB test according to the methodology provided above. Animals must be immobilised to read the test result
3. Brucellosis (both species) – as above
4. Trypanosomes - as above
5. Theileria – as above
6. CBPP - to be determined by Department.
7. Treatment for internal and external parasites

Standard supportive treatment can be given at owner's discretion with the exception of Buparvoquone or related anti-theilerial drugs.

Day 45 – end of quarantine

ARTICLE 8**NOTIFICATION OF ANIMAL DISEASE OCCURRENCE**

DVLD will notify DAFF immediately of all occurrences of animal diseases that may be carried by sable and all such that occur within 21 days after dispatch of sable.

ARTICLE 9
AMENDMENT OF AND SUSPENSION OF PROTOCOL

The protocol may be amended or suspended by DAFF as soon as there are sufficient scientific reasons to do so.

ARTICLE 10
DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

DVLD and DAFF agree to make every effort to settle any dispute arising from the interpretation or implementation of this protocol through bilateral consultation or negotiation.

Signed at _____ on _____ December 2009

Signed

Minister of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries
Republic of South Africa

Minister of Agriculture
Republic of Zambia

Minister of Veterinary and
Livestock Development
Republic of Zambia
