

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
Division of Agriculture**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE IMPORTATION OF
ANIMALS**



April 2012

AUTHORITY: These regulations are adopted pursuant to Chapter 42-35, 42-17, and 4-4-23 of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

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EFFECTIVE: April 2012

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RULE 1.00 PURPOSE

The purpose of these rules and regulations is to permit the importation into Rhode Island of only those animals which are disease free or which originate from herds or flocks that have qualified as disease free according to State or Federal Standards.

RULE 2.00 AUTHORITY

These rules and regulations are promulgated pursuant to Chapter 42-17.1, Environmental Management, and Chapter 4-4-23 in accordance with 42-35, Administrative Procedures, of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

RULE 3.00 ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS

Animals harboring infectious diseases present a health threat to the livestock, native wildlife and human populations of Rhode Island. Many infectious, contagious diseases of animals are not readily detected through physical examination and anamnesis, but require the application of approved laboratory diagnostic procedures by professionally trained and supervised personnel. Therefore, only animals that have been tested negative or originate from qualified negative herds or flocks of origin may be allowed entry into Rhode Island. It is necessary that any animal testing positive to such procedures may be denied entrance into Rhode Island.

RULE 4.00 APPLICATION

The terms and provisions of these rules and regulations shall be liberally construed to permit the Department to effectuate the purpose of state law, goals, and policies. These Regulations shall apply to any person importing animals into the State of Rhode Island.

RULE 5.00 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these regulations, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- (a) "Accredited Veterinarian" shall mean a veterinarian approved by the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), to perform functions required by animal disease control and eradication programs.
- (b) "Approved Feeder Pig Market" shall mean as defined in the most current USDA APHIS State-Federal-Industry Program Standards for Pseudorabies.
- (c) "Approved Slaughter Market" shall mean as defined in the most current USDA APHIS State-Federal-Industry Program Standards for Pseudorabies.

- (d) "Breeding Swine" shall mean any sexually mature swine.
- (e) "Camelids" shall mean those ruminant animals used as beasts of burden or source of wool, milk, or meat, including, but not limited to camels, llamas, and alpacas.
- (f) "Cervidae" shall mean those members of the family of animals including but not limited to deer, elk, moose, caribou, reindeer and the sub-family musk deer.
- (g) "Class A, B, C" shall mean as delineated in the most current USDA APHIS Brucellosis Eradication Uniform Methods and Rules
- (g) "Equidae" shall mean those members of the family of animals including but not limited to horses, mules and burros.
- (h) "Feeder Pigs" shall mean any pig weighing twenty (20) pounds to one hundred (100) pounds inclusive.
- (i) "Feeder Pig Monitored Herd" shall mean as defined in the most current USDA APHIS State-Federal-Industry Program Standards for Pseudorabies.
- (j) "Finish Swine" shall mean any pig weighing one hundred (100) to two hundred (200) pounds.
- (k) "Game Birds" shall mean any bird hunted for food or sport, including but not limited to pheasant, grouse, quail, and chukars.
- (l) "NPIP" shall mean the National Poultry Improvement Plan.
- (m) "Qualified Pseudorabies Negative Herd" shall mean as defined in the most current USDA APHIS State-Federal-Industry Program Standards for Pseudorabies.
- (n) "Ratites" shall mean those fowl with a flat breast bone and small or nonexistent wings, including but not limited to ostriches, emu, rheas, and kiwi.
- (o) "Person/Importer" shall mean any person, firm, association, organization, partnership, business trust, corporation or company including but not limited to educational and research institutions, zoological gardens, schools, pet stores and laboratories.
- (p) "Poultry" shall mean any fowl raised for eggs, flesh, or ornamental purposes including but not limited to chickens, turkeys, ducks or geese.
- (q) "Recognized Slaughter Establishment" shall mean as defined in the most current USDA APHIS State-Federal-Industry Program Standards for Pseudorabies.
- (r) "Slaughter Swine" shall mean any pig over two hundred (200) pounds not being used for breeding.
- (s) "Stage I, II, III, IV, V" shall mean as delineated in the most current USDA APHIS State-Federal-Industry Program Standards for Pseudorabies.
- (t) "Identification" shall mean any state or federal required unique or permanent method of identification which specifically identifies individual animals, in compliance with all applicable state and federal animal identification laws or regulations. Including, but not limited to, tags, brands, bands, tattoo, microchip, or physical description of natural and or acquired markings unique to that individual animal . Physical description is only an acceptable means of identification for dogs, cats, and equines

RULE 6.00 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

6.01 No person shall import, or cause to be imported into the state any domestic animal, including but not limited to goats, cattle, swine, sheep, equine as well as camelids,

poultry, ratites and farmed cervidae, unless such animal is accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and an Import Permit, or a waybill as these regulations require.

6.02 No person shall import, or cause to be imported into the state any animal(s)/bird(s) which is under, or originates from any state or region, which is under, any state or federal quarantine due to the presence or suspected presence of a contagious disease without the specific and written approval of the State Veterinarian.

6.03 No person shall import or cause to be imported into the state any animal(s)/bird(s) that is affected with, or has been exposed to any contagious disease including, but not limited to: tuberculosis, brucellosis, anaplasmosis, psoroptic scabies, hog cholera, pseudorabies, rabies, equine infectious anemia, salmonella pullorum, salmonella enteritidis, psittacosis or scrapie.

6.04 Import Permits are required for each shipment of animals. Import Permits will be valid for ten (10) days from the date of issuance. The completed, signed Import Permit must be submitted with copy of all required Certificates of Veterinary Inspection and testing results within 48 hours of arrival of the animals in the State of Rhode Island.

6.05 Failure to comply with the Import Permit and submission requirements can result in refusal of future Import Permits and any other related penalties as described in Rule 17.00, VIOLATIONS, of these regulations.

6.06 Identification of each animal as required by state and federal animal identification laws and regulations, to include, but not limited to, any required permanent identification, tags, brands, bands, tattoo, microchip or unique identification.

6.07 Exemptions from Permits and specific requirements for individual species will be provided for the purpose of Fair, Show and Exhibition as deemed necessary by the State Veterinarians Office. The State Veterinarians Office shall make a compilation of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Animals, as they pertain to Fair, Show and Exhibition, available annually.

6.08 Exemptions from individual animal identification will be made for hatching eggs and day old chicks shipped from NPIP enrolled flocks certified pullorum free.

6.09 Exemption from individual animal identification will be made for feeder pigs that are identified with a unique means of identification that is traceable to the farm where the pigs originated and all pigs identified on the import permit and certificate of veterinary inspection originated from that same farm.

6.10 Exemption from Certificate of Veterinary Examination will be made for poultry only for hatching eggs and day old chicks originating from NPIP enrolled certified pullorum free flocks.

RULE 7.00 CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION

7.01 No person shall import, or cause to be imported any domestic animal, camelid, cervidae, ratite, poultry or waterfowl as specified in Section 7.00, unless each animal is accompanied by an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection issued within thirty (30) days of import and signed by a veterinarian licensed and accredited in the state of origin, and by identification, as required by state and federal animal identification laws, and as set out herein. One copy of such Certificate must be approved and signed by the official having jurisdiction over the disease of animals in the state of origin and forwarded to the Rhode Island State Veterinarian.

7.02 THE CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION SHALL:

- a) Be on official forms of the state of origin.
- b) State that the animal(s)/bird(s) have been inspected and found free of signs of contagious, infectious, or communicable disease.
- c) Contain the date of the veterinary inspection as well as the dates and results of all required tests.
- d) Describe the animal(s)/bird(s) by species, breed, age and sex, and individually identify such animal(s)/bird(s) as required by ear tag, registration number or official tattoo number, leg band, microchip, physical description (for dogs, cats, and equines only) or ear notch.
- e) Contain the data for all required tests and vaccinations including date, results, and the name and address of the laboratory which performed the required tests. All tests reported for import purposes must be USDA officially recognized tests approved by the Rhode Island State Veterinarian and conducted at a State/Federal approved laboratory.
- f) Have complete name and address of the consignor and consignee.
- g) Contain the signature of the inspecting veterinarian as well as that of the official having jurisdiction over the diseases of animals in the state of origin.
- h) Contain a livestock import/poultry permit number where such permit is required for importation.
- i) Record clearly all identification as required by state and federal animal identification laws and regulations.

7.03 Certificates of Veterinary Inspection may be disapproved by the Rhode Island State Veterinarian which do not contain all the necessary statements and test information requested for importation of the animal(s)/bird(s) identified on the certificates. Such animals may be considered illegal imports.

7.04 Certificate of Veterinary Inspection is not required for animals shipped for immediate (within seventy two hours (72hrs)) slaughter to Federal/State inspected slaughtering establishments.

7.05 Livestock entering the State consigned to the above described slaughtering establishments shall be accompanied by a waybill or similar document delivered to the consignee at the destination and listing the following:

- a) Name and address of the consignor or agent.

- b) Purpose of the movement.
- c) Number and species of animals in the consignment.
- d) Point of origin.
- e) Name and address and signature of the owner or shipper.
- f) Date of preparation of waybill.
- g) A statement that the animals are being brought into this state for immediate slaughter.
- i) Record of identification in compliance with state and federal identification requirements

7.06 Waybills or similar documents, as described in Rule 7.05, shall be void eight (8) days after the date of preparation thereof.

RULE 8.00 EMERGENCY REGULATION AMENDING THE RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE IMPORTATION OF ANIMALS.

PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS:

To all persons involved in the transfer of animals as defined in Rhode Island General Law § 4-19-2 (6) "Animal" means “any dog or cat, rabbit, rodent, nonhuman primate, bird or other warm-blooded vertebrate amphibian, fish or reptile but shall not include horses, cattle, sheep, goats, swine, and domestic fowl,” in the State of Rhode Island:

AN EMERGENCY REGULATION REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF ALL PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE TRANSFER OF ANIMALS AND REQUIRING ALL PERSONS IMPORTING ANIMALS INTO THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND TO INSTITUTE SOUND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO AVOID HARM TO THE STATE’S ANIMAL POPULATION AS WELL AS ITS CITIZENRY.

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Management (DEM), through its Division of Agriculture (Agriculture), has learned that large numbers of out of state origin animals are being brought into the State of Rhode Island (State) on a regular basis with little or no oversight; and

WHEREAS, DEM lacks meaningful information regarding any of the persons involved in the transfer of animals in the State thus making it impossible for DEM to carry out one of its primary roles of animal health protection; and

WHEREAS, some of such animals are being delivered into the State without the required health certificate that certifies the animal’s good health; and

WHEREAS, some of such animals, notwithstanding a health certificate, are being delivered with contagious and infectious diseases and or abnormalities that affect the health of the animal; and

WHEREAS, most such animals entering the State are not being examined by a licensed veterinarian to determine health status and the animals are being transferred within the State without valid health certificates; and

WHEREAS, many of the animals being delivered into the State lack sufficient records to identify and track them creating a serious problem for DEM in the event of an animal health emergency; and

WHEREAS, imported animals have come into the State harboring infectious and contagious diseases, and some of the reported diseases are considered zoonotic, that is, capable of being transmitted to humans; and

WHEREAS, most such animals are not being sufficiently isolated following their transport into the State to determine the health status, and in many cases such animals are being commingled immediately with resident Rhode Island animals or humans; and

WHEREAS, an immediate action is required to institute a sound animal management system so that the health, safety and well being of Rhode Island citizens and their animal population can be protected; and

WHEREAS, animals are being imported into the State from other parts of the United States and the world where infectious or contagious diseases are present that if introduced here would pose a significant risk to the State's animal and human populations; and

WHEREAS, all of the above concerns pose a potential threat to the health, safety and well being of Rhode Island citizens and their animals; and

WHEREAS, DEM is the executive office in the State charged by the Rhode Island General Laws with the responsibility of protecting its animal population, and specifically given the authority pursuant to Rhode Island General Law § 4-19-13 which empowers DEM to enact regulations regarding animal care; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Law § 4-19-13 Rules and Regulations states:

“The director [of DEM] may, as he or she deems indicated and appropriate, promulgate rules and regulations consistent with the objectives and intent of this chapter for the purpose of carrying out those objectives and intent. Those rules and regulations may include, but are not limited to, provisions relating to humane transportation to and from registered or licensed premises, records of purchase and sale, identification of animals handled, primary enclosures, housing facilities, sanitation, euthanasia, ambient temperatures, feeding, watering, adequate veterinary medical care, disposition and voluntary surrender of animals at shelters with and without a request for disposition or destruction of the animal. He or she may, at his or her discretion, after public hearing, adopt in whole or in part, those portions of the rules and regulations promulgated by the secretary of the United

States department of agriculture pursuant to the provisions of the animal welfare act, 7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq., which are consistent with the intent and purpose of this chapter.”

WHEREAS, based on the above, DEM has found than an imminent peril to public health, safety, or welfare exists requiring the adoption of this Emergency Regulation.

NOW THEREFORE, DEM, through its Director, under the provisions of Rhode Island General Law 42-35-3 for emergency rulemaking, and under authority of Rhode Island General Law § 4-19-13, 4-4-23, and Chapters 42-17.1 and 42-17.6, hereby enact this Emergency Regulation.

8.01 Effective immediately and with the provisions below; all persons, individuals, organizations, businesses, non-profits and any other kind or type of entity, (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Entity”) involved in the transfer of animals in the State shall file a Registration with DEM on a form prescribed by DEM, that sufficiently describes the type(s) of animal transfer activities being conducted in the State as well as provide a full and complete description of the Entity and its practices utilized in carrying out such activities, as further detailed below. This Emergency Regulation shall also be applicable to all Entities engaged in inter-state and intra-state common transport of animals, as well as to Entities meeting the definition of an Animal Broker as defined below, whether such Entities ever take physical possession of said animals or not.

“Animal Broker” shall mean any third party who arranges, delivers, or otherwise facilitates transfer of ownership of animal(s) from one party to another, whether or not the party receives a fee for providing that service and whether or not the party takes physical possession of the animal(s) at any point.

All Entities engaged in the inter-state and intra-state transfer of animals as of the effective date of this emergency regulation must submit a Registration application to DEM within forty-five (45) days of the effective date of this Emergency Regulation. DEM will acknowledge receipt of Registrations in writing within Fifteen (15) business days (Registration Acknowledgement or Acknowledgement) of filing the Registration application by an Entity. DEM will then review the Registration application and perform any necessary site inspections within Ninety (90) days of receipt of the Registration Application. Upon receipt of a complete Registration application and successful results of any necessary site inspection, DEM will grant a Registration Certificate. If the Entity does not receive an Acknowledgement from DEM for the filed Registration, the Entity must cease and desist operations until a Registration Acknowledgement is secured from the DEM.

An Entity not presently engaged in the transfer of animals that wishes to commence such an operation is required to file a Registration with the DEM and receive a Registration Certificate from DEM before commencing such activity. No Entity filing a Registration application for a new operation shall commence any animal transfer activity without having a Registration Certificate in hand.

Any animal shelter, pound, pet shop, kennel or dealer already licensed by Agriculture is not required to file a Registration with DEM and accordingly does not need an Acknowledgement or Registration Certificate.

Registered entities that engage in the importation of animals from outside the State shall further comply with the following:

8.02. ALL ENTITIES ENGAGED IN THE IMPORTATION OF ANIMALS INTO THE STATE SHALL COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- (a) each and every animal entering the State must be accompanied by a valid health certificate and rabies certificate (if age eligible) from the place of origin that meets or exceeds the requirements set forth in ***Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Animals*** as can be found at the following URL <http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/index.htm#Agriculture> ; and the ***Rules and Regulations Governing the Prevention, Control, and Suppression of Rabies Within the State of Rhode Island*** which can be found at the following URL: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/agric/rabies10.pdf>
- (b) each and every animal entering the state shall be placed in isolation for a minimum period of five (5) days upon arrival into the State in a facility approved by DEM and maintained by a Licensed or Registered Entity in such approved manner; and
- (c) upon completion of the isolation period described above, each and every such animal shall be examined by a Rhode Island licensed veterinarian who then, if appropriate, shall declare in writing that such animal is in good health and appears to be free of any infectious or contagious diseases or exposure thereto, appears to be free of any physical abnormalities which would endanger the animal, and is originated from an area not quarantined for rabies and has not been exposed to rabies. Each and every animal not meeting these requirements shall be placed in a quarantine room, not given a health declaration and will be re-examined when appropriate and provided with a valid health declaration if the problem has been remedied. No animal shall be transferred without a valid health declaration issued by a Rhode Island licensed veterinarian; and
- (d) maintain full, complete and detailed records of all animals imported into the State. Such records shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - 1. Complete description and identity of each animal through a unique method of identification (microchip and/or clear digital photographs taken from the front, left, and right sides of the animal are acceptable);
 - 2. Name, address (street address and mailing address) & telephone number of Entity from whom each animal was obtained;

3. Name, address (street address and mailing address) & telephone number of Entity to whom each animal was transferred;
4. Full description of the animal including DOB or an approximate age from a qualified source;
5. Complete record of all medications administered including veterinarian's diagnosis and prognosis; and
6. Mortality information, if appropriate

DEM recognizes that this Emergency Rule might tend to create a hardship for entities that are presently involved in the importation of animals into the State. However, the need for an importation framework is immediate because of the ever present concern with contagious and infectious diseases and their potential impacts upon the health, safety and well being of the State's citizenry and its animal population. With these competing interests present, DEM will provide some phasing in of the Emergency Rule as noted in Sections II and III below

8.03. ENTITIES WITHOUT A DEDICATED ISOLATION FACILITY

- (a) If there are no shipments of animals arranged for on the effective date of this Emergency Rule, the Entity shall immediately cease arranging for the transportation of any further animals into the State until such time as the Entity obtains a Registration Certificate and comes into compliance with this Emergency Rule.
- (b) If a shipment of animals is scheduled to occur within ten (10) business days from the date of this Emergency Rule, the Entity will be allowed to import those and only those animals into the State providing the Entity maintains the following:
 - (i) full and complete records of all such animals, as described in Section I(d), above;
 - (ii) for five (5) days all such animals shall be kept in physical isolation from the general population;
 - (iii) prior to any subsequent transfer, a Rhode Island licensed veterinarian shall examine each animal and declare it healthy. Each and every animal not meeting these requirements shall be placed in a quarantine room, not given a health declaration and will be re-examined when appropriate and provided with a valid health declaration if the problem has been remedied. No animal shall be transferred without a valid health declaration issued by a Rhode Island licensed veterinarian
- (c) If there are presently imported animals in the State that have yet to be transferred, the Entity will be allowed to transfer any such animals providing such animals are handled in accordance with Paragraph II (b) (i) (ii) and (iii) above.
- (d) All entities that desire to either continue with or to commence the importation of animals into the State shall file a Registration application form with the Department and, at all times, conduct their operations in accordance with the

requirements described in Section I, above. DEM will utilize its best efforts to expedite a Registration Acknowledgement.

8.04. ENTITIES WITH DEDICATED ISOLATION FACILITIES:

Shipment of animals into the State will be allowed for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of this Emergency Rule, providing:

- (a) The Entity files a Registration application with DEM within ten (10) business days from the effective date of this Emergency Regulation, and maintains to the satisfaction of the Department the following:
 - (i) the dedicated isolation facility;
 - (ii) full and complete records for each and every animal;
 - (iii) a minimum five day isolation period for each and every animal;
 - (iv) a satisfactory veterinarian examination for each and every animal; and
 - (v) obtains a valid health declaration for each and every animal prior to transfer.
- (b) the Entity's dedicated isolation facility has been approved by DEM; and
- (c) Any Entity that does not secure a Registration Certificate from DEM within ninety (90) days from the effective date of this Emergency Regulation shall cease the importation of animals into the State.

8.05 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

Any Entity found to be in violation of this Emergency Regulation shall be subject to administrative penalties not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for each violation or failure to comply, in accordance with Rhode Island General Law Chapters 4-4 and 42-17.6. Each and every occurrence and/or day during which the violation or failure to comply is repeated shall constitute a separate and distinct violation. In addition, any Entity found to be in violation of this Emergency Regulation shall also be responsible for all costs and fees associated with any quarantine, examination and testing required by the State Veterinarian's Office, and may also be subject to forfeiture of specimen(s) and revocation of Registration and/or license, if applicable.

8.06 SEVERABILITY

If any provision of these Emergency Rules and Regulations, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of the Emergency Rules and Regulations shall not be affected.

RULE 9.00 DOGS AND CATS

9.01 Identification and Certificate of Veterinary Inspection required for all animals imported, including, but not limited to, all animals for commercial, research, wholesale, retail, animal rescue, adoption, foster, exhibition and education, as required by the State Veterinarian Office.

9.02 Rabies

All dogs and cats three (3) months of age or older imported into Rhode Island must be accompanied by proof of rabies vaccination. The rabies vaccination must be administered by a licensed veterinarian. Adult animals six (6) months of age or older that have received only a initial, first time documented, vaccination must have been vaccinated at least thirty days prior to entry into the state. Puppies and kittens three (3) to six (6) months of age that have received initial Rabies vaccine are provided exception from a thirty day waiting period.

RULE 10.00 CATTLE/GOATS/BISON/CAMELIDS

10.01 Identification and Certificate of Veterinary Inspection required except where noted under General requirements.

10.02 Rabies

All cattle three months of age or older imported into Rhode Island for exhibition or show purposes must be accompanied by proof of rabies vaccination not more than one (1) year nor less than thirty (30) days prior to entry into Rhode Island. Calves, between three (3) and six (6) months of age vaccinated with initial immunizations are provided exception from the thirty (30) day waiting period. The rabies vaccination must be administered by a veterinarian licensed in the state of origin.

10.03 Tuberculosis

All cattle/bison/goats/camelids must test negative to a USDA officially recognized tuberculosis test within sixty (60) days immediately prior to entry into Rhode Island. Negative tuberculosis tests are not required for all cattle/bison/goats that are identified as members of a herd Certified Tuberculosis Free originating in a Tuberculosis Accredited Free State. Such Tuberculosis Free Certification must have been performed within 12 months prior to importation into Rhode Island by a veterinarian licensed and accredited in the state of origin and must include all test eligible animals. The animals to be imported must have been included in the herd test.

10.04 Brucellosis

Brucellosis testing is not required if cattle/bison/goats/camelids move to Rhode Island directly from a Certified Free Herd in a Class A State. Such certification must have been performed within 12 months prior to importation into Rhode Island and must include all test eligible animals. The animals to be imported must have been included in the certification. All cattle/bison/goats and camelids over four months of age imported into

Rhode Island from a Class A, Class B, or Class C States must individually test negative to a USDA officially recognized Brucellosis test within 30 days immediately prior to entry into the state. Cattle/Bison under 18 months (540 days) of age and identified by official tattoo or official certification of vaccination as official brucellosis vaccinates as well as steers and spayed heifers of any age do not need a Brucellosis test.

10.05 Anaplasmosis

All cattle/bison/goats and camelids that are imported from any area in which anaplasmosis is endemic must test negative to a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) officially recognized test for anaplasmosis within 30 days immediately prior to entry into Rhode Island.

10.06 Bluetongue

All cattle, bison, goats and camelids originating from any area in which Bluetongue is endemic must test negative to a USDA officially recognized test within 30 days prior to entry into Rhode Island.

RULE 11.00 CERVIDAE - Persons wishing to import native species of cervidae must first obtain a permit from the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife and comply with Title 20 of Rhode Island General Laws requirements prior to importation. Any person wishing to import exotic species of cervids, as defined in the Regulations Governing the Import-Export of Exotic Animals, must first obtain a permit from the Rhode Island Division of Agriculture and comply with Title 4 of Rhode Island General Laws requirements prior to importation.

11.01 Identification and Certificate of Veterinary Inspection required except where noted under General Requirements.

11.02 Tuberculosis

All cervidae imported into Rhode Island must either:

1.) Test negative to two official tuberculosis tests, which were conducted no less than 90 days

apart; the second tuberculosis test being conducted within 90 days prior to the date of importation; and the cervid isolated from all other animals during the testing period or,

2.) Originate from a Federally Accredited Tuberculosis Free herd in which all captive cervids in the herd that are eligible for testing must have tested negative to at least three consecutive official tuberculosis tests conducted at 10 - 14 months intervals. Any cervids added to this herd must:

(A) move directly from another accredited herd; or

(B) move directly from a Federally qualified cervid herd which has undergone a negative official tuberculosis test within the previous 12 months and test negative to an official tuberculosis test within 90 days prior to movement to the premise of the accredited herd, or

(C) test negative to two official tuberculosis test conducted at least 90 days apart and the second test must be conducted within 90 days prior to movement to the premise of the accredited herd or

3.) Originate from a Federally qualified cervid herd in which all eligible cervids have tested negative to an official tuberculosis test within the previous 12 months and the cervid to be imported has tested negative to an official tuberculosis test conducted within 90 days prior to date of importation.

4.) All imported cervidae subject to quarantine and retest upon importation.

11.03 Brucellosis

Cervidae over six (6) months of age must individually test negative to a USDA officially recognized Brucellosis test within thirty (30) days immediately prior to entry into Rhode Island.

11.04 Anaplasmosis/Bluetongue

Cervidae must test negative to a USDA officially recognized test for Anaplasmosis and Bluetongue within thirty (30) days prior to importation.

11.05 Chronic Wasting Disease

All cervidae must be in compliance with the current state and federal importation and control regulations concerning Chronic Wasting Disease control and eradication, including and not limited to all rules and regulations promulgated under Title 4 and Title 20 of Rhode Island General Laws. All cervids must be imported from Chronic Wasting Disease monitored herds from states and regions as approved by the State Veterinarians Office

RULE 12.00 SWINE

12.01 Identification and Certificate of Veterinary Inspection required except where noted under General Requirements.

12.02 Brucellosis

Swine to be eligible for importation into Rhode Island must either:

- a) Originate from a brucellosis validated free herd or
- b) Originate from a non-quarantined herd in a validated swine brucellosis free state or
- c) If over four (4) months of age, test negative to a USDA officially recognized brucellosis test within thirty (30) days immediately prior to entry into Rhode Island.

12.03 Pseudorabies

1. Slaughter Swine

a) Infected or exposed swine may only be shipped into a State IV or V State/Area by permit directly to a recognized slaughter establishment or to an approved slaughter market.

b) Imports of slaughter swine from States or Area with a Program status up to and including Stage III are permitted to a recognized slaughter establishment or an approved slaughter market only.

2. Breeding Swine

a) Direct shipment from a Stage IV or V State/Area, or

b) Direct shipment from a qualified pseudorabies - negative herd in any State/Area, or

c) Negative official pseudorabies serologic test within 30 days prior to shipment with quarantine, isolation, and retest at destination in 30-60 days following importation.

3. Feeder Pigs

a) Direct shipment from a farm of origin or a market in a State IV or V State/Area, or

b) Direct shipment from a qualified pseudorabies-negative herd, or

c) Entry is allowed into Stage IV or V State/Areas from feeder-pig-monitored herds in Stage II or

Stage III States under the following condition:

(1) That the swine originate from an approved feeder pig market or direct from a qualified-negative (QN) herd or a feeder-pig-monitor (FPM) herd;

4. Vaccination is not permitted except by permit from the State Veterinarian in certain high-risk herds.

RULE 13.00 SHEEP

13.01 Identification and Certificate of Veterinary Inspection required except where noted under General Requirements. Certificates must contain a "Scrapie Statement" by the accredited veterinarian stating that to the best of their knowledge the sheep listed on the certificate do not have symptoms of Scrapie, have no known exposure to Scrapie infected animals or the progeny of Scrapie infected animals.

13.02 Bluetongue

All sheep imported into the state from a bluetongue endemic area must test negative to a USDA officially recognized test for bluetongue within thirty (30) days prior to entry into Rhode Island

13.03 omitted

13.04 Scrapie

No sheep affected with scrapie or originating from a flock quarantined or epidemiologically linked to a flock quarantined for scrapie shall be imported into Rhode Island.

13.05 Psoroptic Scabies

No sheep affected with or exposed to psoroptic scabies shall be imported into Rhode Island.

13.06 Rabies

All sheep three (3) months of age or older imported into Rhode Island for exhibition or show purposes must be accompanied by proof of rabies immunization administered by a veterinarian licensed in the state of origin. Such proof of vaccination must state that vaccination was administered not more than one (1) year nor less than thirty (30) days prior to entry into Rhode Island. Lambs 4 months of age or younger that have received initial vaccination will be exempt from the thirty (30) day waiting period.

RULE 14.00 RATITES

14.01 Identification and Certificate of Veterinary Inspection required except where noted under General Requirements.

14.02 Salmonella Pullorum

Any ratite 5 months of age or more, imported into the state for purposes of breeding or egg production, must test negative to an agglutination test for Salmonella Pullorum disease within thirty (30) days prior to entry into the state. All ratites less than five (5) months of age and all hatching eggs imported into the state must originate from a hatchery or other premises where the breeding stock has been officially tested negative to Salmonella Pullorum within the past year.

14.03 Avian Influenza

When there is a threat of Avian Influenza entering the state, the Director may require that all ratites, except for those consigned directly to slaughter, must individually test negative to an Avian Influenza test approved by the State Veterinarian within a minimum of ten (10) days of entry into the state. Serotype(s) to be determined by the Department.

RULE 15.00 POULTRY-INCLUDING HATCHING EGGS AND GAME BIRDS

15.01 Identification and Certificate of Veterinary Inspection or other nationally recognized certification of disease free status required except where noted under General Requirements.

15.02 Salmonella Pullorum

All poultry (five (5) months or more of age), and hatching eggs imported for purposes of breeding or egg production, must originate from a flock designated "Pullorum Free" under the supervision of the poultry disease control officials of the state of origin or individually test negative to an agglutination test or other recognized test for Salmonella Pullorum within thirty (30) days prior to entry into the state. All poultry less than five (5) months of age and all hatching eggs imported into the state must originate from a flock designated "Pullorum Free" under the supervision of the poultry disease control officials of the state of origin.

EXCEPTIONS: No tests are required for game birds used strictly for hunting purposes and which are consigned directly to a licensed hunting preserve or State Management Area or for racing pigeons entering the state for release for return to state of origin.

15.03 Avian Influenza

All poultry, of any age, and hatching eggs must be tested negative for avian influenza, or originate from a avian influenza tested negative flock, if the poultry originates from any state or region in which avian influenza has been reported. Testing for Avian Influenza must be performed within a minimum of 10 days of shipment or as determined by the State Veterinarians Office. The method of testing must be consistent with current approved serological and/or viral screening methods approved by the State Veterinarians Office. Avian Influenza testing can be required at any time, as dictated by Rhode Island General Law Title 4 , Chapter 4, under the authority of the Director of Environmental Management.

RULE 16.00 EQUIDAE

16.01 Identification and Certificate of Veterinary Inspection required except where noted under General Requirements.

16.02 Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)

All EQUIDAE imported must be accompanied by evidence of an official negative serologic test for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) within 12 months prior to importation. EXCEPTION: No test required for foals under six (6) months of age when accompanied by their dam which has met the EIA test requirements.

EXCEPTION: The State Veterinarian may, at his/her discretion, allow into Rhode Island an equid of unknown EIA status. The individual identification of any animal so admitted must be recorded, and the location of the quarantine facility approved in advance by the State Veterinarian. The equid of unknown EIA status must remain at the approved quarantine facility under the quarantine conditions set by the State Veterinarian until such time as the animal goes directly to slaughter or tests negative for EIA. The EIA test information must be recorded on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and must include the following: the date and result of the test, the name of the testing laboratory, and the laboratory accession number.

16.03 Rabies

All equidae greater than three (3) months of age imported into Rhode Island for exhibition or show purposes must be accompanied by proof of rabies vaccination not more than one (1) year nor less than thirty (30) days prior to entry into Rhode Island. Foals six (6) months of age or younger receiving initial vaccination will be exempt from the thirty (30) day waiting period. The rabies vaccination must be administered by a veterinarian licensed in the state of origin.

RULE 17.00 VIOLATIONS

The Director of the Department of Environmental Management may make all necessary regulations for the prevention, treatment, cure and extirpation of such disease; and every person who shall fail to comply with any regulation so made shall be fined not exceeding three hundred dollars (\$300) or be imprisoned not exceeding one (1) year. Every person who shall fail to comply with any regulation so made shall be responsible for all costs and fee associated with any quarantine, examination and testing required by the State Veterinarians Office, and subject to forfeiture of the imported animals.

RULE 18.00 SEVERABILITY

If any provision of these Rules and Regulations, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of the Rules and Regulations shall not be affected.

RULE 19.00 EFFECTIVE DATE

The foregoing "Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Importation of Animals", after due notice, are hereby adopted and filed with the Secretary of State this day of _____, to become effective twenty (20) days thereafter, in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 4-4-12, 4-4-23, 42-35, 42-17.1 and 42-17.6 of the General Laws of Rhode Island of 1956, as amended.

Janet Coit, Director
Department of Environmental Management

Notice Given on:

Public Hearing held:

Filing Date:

Effective Date: