



## Animal Health Regulations: For Exhibition and Showing Only

Pursuant to Rule 6.07 of “*Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Animals*” from which these Fair and Show Regulations are adopted and reads as follows:

“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.”

NOTE: The Rules and Regulations specified below are for TEMPORARY importation (less than 10 consecutive days) for the purposes of Fair, Show and Exhibition ONLY. The *Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Animals* are paramount. Those rules and regulations can be viewed at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/agric/animimp12.pdf>. Animals used for purposes other than fair, show or exhibition may have other requirements or regulations. These Fair and Show regulations apply to all animals at fairs and shows, not just those entered in competition. (They apply to animals on exhibition, in parades, circuses, pets accompanying owners while the owner has other animals that are competing in a fair, show, or exhibition, pony rides, rodeos etc.)

### REGULATIONS:

#### 1. General Requirements:

- 1.1. **Import Permits:** Import permits are not required for animals that are being temporarily imported (for a period of less than 10 consecutive days) for the purpose of fair, show, and exhibition only.
- 1.2. **Rabies Certificates:** All dogs, cats, sheep, cattle, horses and ferrets that are on public exhibition must be currently vaccinated against rabies. A current and valid official rabies vaccination certificate is the only acceptable proof of rabies vaccination. *Rules and Regulations Governing the Prevention, Control, and Suppression of Rabies Within the State of Rhode Island* which can be seen at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/agric/rabies10.pdf> is the reference document regarding rabies vaccination in Rhode Island.
- 1.3. **Rabies in species of mammals for which no USDA licensed rabies vaccine exists:** All mammals for which no USDA approved vaccine exists (including but not limited to goats, camelids, swine and wildlife and hybrids thereof), and which are used for public display must be either:
  - a) Separated from the public by sufficient means so as to prevent direct animal to public contact, or,
  - b) For herbivores only: Identified as possible rabies carriers by conspicuously posted and readily legible signs stating: RHODE ISLAND RABIES CONTROL BOARD NOTICE – FEED AND TOUCH THESE ANIMALS AT YOUR OWN RISK.
  - c) Facilities covered by these regulations shall include, but not be limited to, the following: petting zoos, zoos, nature centers, fairs, exhibitions, or education programs involving animals.
- 1.4. **Exotic wild animals and hybrids thereof:** Pursuant to RI General Law § 4-18-6 <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE4/4-18/4-18-6.HTM> a short-term non resident permit is required for the importation and exhibition of exotic wild animals and hybrids thereof unless exempted

by part (d) of the above referenced law (which exempts AZA and USDA licensed exhibitors from the requirement of a short-term non resident permit).

- 1.5. Certificates of Veterinary Inspection:** Unless otherwise exempted, certificates of veterinary inspection are required for the importation of all animals for the purpose of fair, show, or exhibition. Certificates must be issued within the calendar year that the importation for the purpose of fair, show, or exhibition takes place. A copy of the certificate must accompany the animal while in Rhode Island, and a copy must be mailed to the RI State Veterinarian prior to entry. The certificate of veterinary inspection must meet all requirements as found in Rule 7 of ***Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Animals***.
- 1.6. Exemptions from the requirement of a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection:** Animals at specific events may be imported temporarily (less than 10 days) without being accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection for the purpose of fair, show, and exhibition provided that the party responsible for the management of the fair, show, or exhibition meets all of the following requirements. Failure of the responsible party and the animal owner to meet any or all requirements under Rule 1.6 of this document will nullify the exemption and may constitute a violation pursuant to Rule 17 of ***Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Animals*** and significant penalties may be assessed.
- 1.6.1.** Meet rabies vaccination requirements pursuant to Rules 1.2 and 1.3 of this document, and;
  - 1.6.2.** Meet individual species requirements listed below by species, and;
  - 1.6.3.** The responsible party must notify the RI State Veterinarian, in writing, of the occurrence of the scheduled fair, show, or exhibition no less than sixty (60) days prior to the event starting. Such notification must include the date, location, and time of the event, the expected number of animals that will be attending the event, and, the name, address (both mailing and physical address), and the telephone number of the person who will be acting as the responsible party. The responsible party must be a Rhode Island resident, and;
  - 1.6.4.** The responsible party must maintain a list of all animals that were imported for the purpose of fair, show, or exhibition whether or not the animal actually competed/participated in the event. The list must include the animal's name, description (including animal's age, predominant breed, color, and gender), the animal owner's name, address (both mailing and physical address), and phone number. This list must be maintained for a period of one year (365 days) from the conclusion of the event. The list must be presented to any official from the RI Department of Environmental Management or the RI Department of Health within five (5) days of a request made to the responsible party, and;
  - 1.6.5.** The responsible party must clearly post these Fair and Show regulations in a conspicuous place at the event entrances and must provide notification of the Fair and Show regulations to all entrants at the event, and;
  - 1.6.6.** The event must have present, on premises, a Rhode Island licensed veterinarian. This veterinarian must be present for a sufficient amount of time to observe and he or she must observe all animals for obvious signs of infectious contagious diseases or other conditions that would preclude participation in the event. This veterinarian does not need to be present for the duration of the event. The event must give authority to this veterinarian to deny any animal that he or she feels is afflicted with a contagious infectious disease, or is otherwise unfit, from participating in the fair, show, or exhibition. This veterinarian and/or the responsible party must promptly (within 6 hours) report the presence of any animal that the veterinarian feels is infectious/contagious, or otherwise unfit to participate to the Rhode Island State Veterinarian, and;
  - 1.6.7.** The responsible party and/or the veterinarian must be given authority to order any animal that is found, by the veterinarian, to be contagious or infectious, or otherwise unfit, to be held in a place and a manner that will reduce the likelihood of transmission of disease until the Rhode Island State Veterinarian can assess and make further recommendations.
- 1.7. Animals unfit for fair, show, or exhibitions:** All animals at fairs, shows, or exhibitions must be in proper physical condition and are subject to examination, by federal or state animal health officials, at the exhibition for visual evidence of infections or contagious diseases or any condition that would render it unfit for exhibition. Any animal exhibiting signs, including but not limited to the following, may

be refused entry: diarrhea, vomiting, nasal discharge, ocular discharge, cough, lameness, skin lesions, loss of hair or feathers, external parasites, neurological signs, fever, lethargy, depression, difficult breathing, abscesses or growths, emaciation, or known exposure to animals with infectious or contagious diseases. Animals and exhibitors banned from other events due to the detection of prohibited drugs, medications, and/or substances will not be allowed entry.

**1.8. Evidence of any contagious or infectious disease** will result in an animal's rejection for entry into the event and may result in removal from the state for animals that originated from out-of-state. The decision of the inspector is final. Animals may be rejected by inspectors based upon suspicion of disease subsequent to inspection since timely confirmation of disease in a field setting may not be feasible. All Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (a.k.a CVI / Health Certificates) for animals that originate out-of-state, and all certificates or test charts on animals that originate in-state, must be signed by a licensed veterinarian (and that veterinarian must also be federally accredited when applicable) validating the animal's vaccinations, identification and that they are clinically free of infectious/contagious diseases and have no history of exposure to such disease.

## **2. Individual species requirements:**

### **2.1. Cattle: proof of the following is required**

- 2.1.1.** All cattle must be currently vaccinated against rabies in accordance with Rule 1.2 of this document unless exempted due to age. If exempted due to age, they must be managed in accordance with Rule 1.3.
- 2.1.2.** All cattle must be officially identified.
- 2.1.3.** In addition to the above, out-of-state origin cattle must:
  - 2.1.3.1.** Test negative to an official Tuberculosis test within 60 days prior to entry into the first show in Rhode Island for the calendar year, or, originate in a herd that was certified as Tuberculosis free within the previous 365 days, and;
  - 2.1.3.2.** Test negative to an official Brucellosis test within 30 days prior to entry into the first show in Rhode Island for the calendar year, or, originate in a herd that was certified as Brucellosis free within the previous 365 days. Cattle less than 120 days old, steers, spayed heifers, and official Brucellosis calfhood vaccinated cattle are exempt from Brucellosis testing.
  - 2.1.3.3.** All cattle originating from states or regions that are endemic for Bluetongue and Anaplasmosis must be tested negative for Bluetongue and Anaplasmosis within 30 days of entry into Rhode Island.
  - 2.1.3.4.** Be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection per Rule 1.5 or exemption per Rule 1.6.

### **2.2. Goats: proof of the following is required**

- 2.2.1.** Rabies notification and management per Rule 1.3
- 2.2.2.** All goats must be officially identified.
- 2.2.3.** All goats enrolled in the Voluntary Scrapie Free Flock Certification Program must be kept separated from non-enrolled goats and sheep by a vacant pen, alleyway or solid physical barrier sufficient to prevent contact between the animals and their excretions. Contact within the ring and common areas will be limited and commingling is not allowed. No goats will be allowed if they originate from or were part of a herd in which scrapie was diagnosed or which is under surveillance for scrapie unless prior approval from the State Veterinarian has been granted. **Goats on exhibition are prohibited from having contact with kidding does or lambing ewes.**
- 2.2.4.** In addition to the above, all out-of-state origin goats must:
  - 2.2.4.1.** Test negative to an official Tuberculosis test within 60 days prior to entry into the first show in Rhode Island for the calendar year, or, originate in a herd that was certified as Tuberculosis free within the previous 365 days, and;
  - 2.2.4.2.** Test negative to an official Brucellosis test within 30 days prior to entry into the first show in Rhode Island for the calendar year, or, originate in a herd that was certified as Brucellosis free within the previous 365 days. Goats less than 120 days old and wethers are exempt from Brucellosis testing.

- 2.2.4.3. All goats originating from states or regions that are endemic for Bluetongue and Anaplasmosis must be tested negative for Bluetongue and Anaplasmosis within 30 days of entry into Rhode Island.
- 2.2.4.4. Certificate of veterinary inspection per Rule 1.5 or exemption per Rule 1.6.

### **2.3. Sheep: proof of the following is required**

- 2.3.1. All sheep must be currently vaccinated against rabies in accordance with Rule 1.2 of this document unless exempted by age. If exempted due to age, they must be managed in accordance with Rule 1.3.
- 2.3.2. All sheep must be officially identified.
- 2.3.3. All sheep enrolled in the Voluntary Scrapie Free Flock Certification Program must be kept separated from non-enrolled goats and sheep by a vacant pen, alleyway or solid physical barrier sufficient to prevent contact between the animals and their excretions. Contact within the ring and common areas will be limited and commingling is not allowed. No sheep will be allowed if they originate from or were part of a flock in which scrapie was diagnosed or which is under surveillance for scrapie unless prior approval from the State Veterinarian has been granted.  
**Sheep on exhibition are prohibited from having contact with kidding does or lambing ewes.**
- 2.3.4. Sheep from flocks in which Soremouth has been diagnosed or in which Soremouth vaccination has been conducted will not be allowed entry until 60 days has elapsed since the last clinical signs of Soremouth or Soremouth vaccine has been administered.
- 2.3.5. In addition to the above, out-of-state origin sheep must:
  - 2.3.5.1. Be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection per Rule 1.5 or exemption per Rule 1.6.
  - 2.3.5.2. All sheep originating from states or regions that are endemic for Bluetongue or Anaplasmosis must be tested negative for Bluetongue and Anaplasmosis within 30 days of entry into Rhode Island.

### **2.4. Swine: proof of the following is required**

- 2.4.1. Rabies notification and management per Rule 1.3
- 2.4.2. In addition to the above, out-of-state origin swine must
  - 2.4.2.1. Be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection per Rule 1.5 or exemption per Rule 1.6.
  - 2.4.2.2. Be officially identified.
  - 2.4.2.3. Originate from Brucellosis free and Pseudorabies free states, or
  - 2.4.2.4. Swine that are 6 months of age or older but that did not originate from a Brucellosis and Pseudorabies free states must be individually tested for Brucellosis and Pseudorabies and determined to be negative within 30 days prior to the first show of the season.

### **2.5. Poultry: proof of the following is required**

- 2.5.1. No poultry from states or areas under quarantine for disease will be allowed entry.
- 2.5.2. All Poultry will be individually inspected and must be properly identified or banded in compliance with federal and state programs.
- 2.5.3. All out-of-state poultry must be accompanied by written proof (NPIP ID Cards, Valid Testing Reports or Health Certificates) that the flock of origin, or individual bird, was blood tested negative for Pullorum-typhoid within 365 days.

### **2.6. Camelids: proof of the following is required**

- 2.6.1. Rabies notification and management per Rule 1.3
- 2.6.2. In addition to the above, out-of-state origin camelids must:
  - 2.6.2.1. Test negative to an official Tuberculosis test within 60 days prior to entry into the first show in Rhode Island for the calendar year, or, originate in a herd that was certified as Tuberculosis free within the previous 365 days, and;
  - 2.6.2.2. Test negative to an official Brucellosis test within 30 days prior to entry into the first show in Rhode Island for the calendar year, or, originate in a herd that was certified as Brucellosis

free within the previous 365 days. Camelids less than 120 days old and castrated males are exempt from Brucellosis testing.

- 2.6.2.3. All camelids originating from states or regions that are endemic for Bluetongue and Anaplasmosis must be tested negative for Bluetongue and Anaplasmosis within 30 days of entry into Rhode Island.
- 2.6.2.4. Be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection per Rule 1.5 or exemption per Rule 1.6
- 2.6.2.5. Be officially identified.

## **2.7. Equines: proof of the following is required**

- 2.7.1. All equines must be currently vaccinated against rabies in accordance with Rule 1.2 of this document unless exempted by age or lack of USDA licensed vaccine. If exempted they must be managed in accordance with Rule 1.3.
- 2.7.2. All equines must be officially identified (microchip, digital photo, or physical description must match EIA test, rabies vaccination certificate, and certificate of veterinary inspection).
- 2.7.3. In addition to the above, all out-of-state origin equines must:
  - 2.7.3.1. Official copy of Coggins (EIA) testing within 12 months of the date of the event, and
  - 2.7.3.2. Be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection per Rule 1.5 or exemption per Rule 1.6

## **2.8. Dogs and Cats: proof of the following is required**

- 2.8.1. All dogs and cats must be currently vaccinated against rabies in accordance with Rule 1.2 of this document unless exempted by age. If exempted they must be managed in accordance with Rule 1.3.
- 2.8.2. In addition to the above, all out of state origin dogs and cats must Be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection per Rule 1.5 or exemption per Rule 1.6

## **2.9. Other species not specifically addressed in this document must follow the entry requirements for that species in *Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Animals*. Contact the RI State Veterinarian if entry requirements are not found in that document.**

Please read the entire regulations to ensure compliance. The complete version of “***Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Animals***” may be viewed at the following URL:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/agric/animimp12.pdf>

If you have any questions regarding these regulations, please call 401-222-2781, fax 401-222-6047, email, or send via postal. Address all inquiries to:

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