



June 19, 2020

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services
Strategy and Policy
Live Animal Imports

4700 River Road
Unit 39

Riverdale, MD 20737

(301)851-3000

Notice Regarding Fractious Animals and Additional Accommodations

USDA would like to bring to your attention the following issues and concerns regarding imports: 1) Fractious Animals 2) Animals requiring additional accommodations and/or medical treatment.

This notice is being shared to make you aware that effective immediately, the following policies have been implemented at all ports of entry.

Fractious Animals

In accordance with Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations Part 93, any animal presenting for entry into the United States must meet all import requirements including inspection and quarantine. The safety of personnel and all animals is important. APHIS uses humane handling techniques and equipment available to properly restrain animals and may use an accredited veterinarian if necessary. However if animals are not able to be handled in a safe manner any of the following may occur: delayed release of the animal or consignment, additional fees, or refused entry.

Animals requiring additional accommodations or medical treatment

All animals imported into the U.S. must present healthy and fit to travel. USDA also requires each animal be inspected upon arrival, found free of any evidence of communicable diseases and, insofar as can be determined, exposure thereto during the 60 days preceding exportation. Animals imported that are found to be sick, injured upon arrival or require additional accommodations, which include removal of bandages or wraps, treatment of open wounds and special medical treatments will be assessed additional fees due to the resources needed to support these animals while in quarantine. Quarantine release may be delayed for any clinically ill animal with signs of communicable disease, and any animal(s) in contact with clinically ill animal(s) in quarantine, also known as contact animals.

For further information about the requirements for horses to be imported into the U.S., please visit the USDA website: [USDA APHIS VS Equine Imports](#)

For questions or concerns, please contact the Acting Director for Live Animal Imports, Dr. Amber Headen, at amber.l.headen@usda.gov or the Acting National Port Services Director, Dr. Rachel Cezar-Martinez, at rachel.cezar-martinez@usda.gov.