



## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES

HOPE GARDENS, KINGSTON 6, JAMAICA

TELEPHONE: (876) 927-1731-50 (876) 619-1731 | FAX: (876) 927-1904

WEBSITE: <https://www.moa.gov.jm>

### VETERINARY SERVICES DIVISION

#### Pre-Quarantine Guidelines to Importers of Horses (Equids)

1. All importers must ensure that they have a valid Veterinary Import Permit which will outline the requirements for import under the law. Veterinary Import Permits should be applied for, paid for and issued in hand before animals are shipped to Jamaica. Importers MUST be aware that Veterinary Import Permit requirements ARE subject to change. Importers should submit the health certificate beforehand and have it ready with the permit.
2. All importers are required to submit a copy of the Official Export Sanitary (Health) Certificate issued by the competent veterinary authority to the Quarantine Officer at the Permit Unit no later than 48(hrs.) before arrival.
3. A booking must be made with the Quarantine Officer for the animals to be placed in Quarantine. This must be done three (3) to six (6) months before the animal(s) arrive. **Quarantine booking schedules are subject to change.**
4. Importers are required to complete the Animal Import Notification Form three (3) weeks before the arrival date and a further forty-eight (48) hours before arrival.
5. By law ALL animals must be landed at the Norman Manley International Airport (NMIA) in Kingston.
6. All animals are required by law to be quarantined at the National Quarantine Station, Plumb Point for a period of no less than fourteen (14) days.
7. All importers are responsible for the deposit of food, bedding, feed trough, and water containers/ buckets (properly labeled) at the National Quarantine Station a minimum of 48 hours (about 2 days) before the date of landing. Importers are urged to refrain from depositing these items on the date of landing.
8. All owners are responsible for signing off on all items dropped off at the Quarantine Station with the caretaker.
9. Importers are encouraged to acquire the services of a knowledgeable and experienced Customs Broker, specifically knowledgeable in the importation of live animals.
10. On the day of landing all importers are required to present their valid **VETERINARY IMPORT PERMIT** and the **OFFICIAL EXPORT SANITARY (HEALTH) CERTIFICATE** to the Veterinary Landing Officer.
11. All importers MUST ensure that they have animal handlers present on the day of import, having received security clearance from the Security Post at the NMIA. Handlers should be properly attired for dress on the tarmac including long pants, sleeved shirts, covered shoes and a security vest. Handlers SHOULD NOT be adorned in shorts, merinos, or slippers. A valid government issued identification document (passport, drivers licence) is required at the NMIA security post.
12. All importers are responsible for providing the vehicles for transport of the animals to the National Quarantine Station, Plumb Point. All animals transported from the NMIA to the Quarantine Station Importers will be escorted by the Veterinary Landing Officer. All importers must ensure that on the date of import the appropriate transport vehicles are present, inclusive



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of a truck or trailers. All vehicles must be thoroughly washed and disinfected within 24hrs before the arrival of the animals as well as after the animals have been transported to the Quarantine Station.

13. All importers are reminded that all handlers and personnel are required to comply with the instructions of the Veterinary Landing Officer, personnel at the quarantine station, airport security personnel and customs officer.
14. All importers are required to leave the name and contact details of their private veterinarian with the Permit Office in the event any issue should arise.
15. Importers will NOT be allowed visitation of animals during the period of quarantine.
16. Importers must provide details of where the animals will be located after the quarantine period. Importers will also be asked to confirm the details of this location on the date of discharge. This information is very important as ALL animals are subject to post quarantine inspection during the 6 month period after arrival.

**IMPORTERS MUST COMMUNICATE WITH THE PERMIT OFFICE VIA TELEPHONE AND EMAIL IF THERE ARE ANY CHANGES DURING THE PLANNING PROCESS.**

For further information, please contact:

Permit Unit of the Veterinary Services Division

Tel: (876) 927-0594 or 977-2489/92

Email: [vsdpermits@moa.gov.jm](mailto:vsdpermits@moa.gov.jm)