



2013 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 Fair, Show and Exhibition ONLY. The Rules and Regulations governing the interstate movement of animals and the health or care of animals within Rhode Island are paramount and may be different. Animals used for purposes other than fair, show and exhibition, as defined below, may have other requirements or regulations. These 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, pony rides, rodeos etc.)

NOTE: ENTRY PERMITS (a.k.a import permits) are not required for TEMPORARY importation of animals attending fair, show, and exhibition. Import permits ARE required for any animals entering or sold into Rhode Island for permanent or extended residence.

REGULATIONS:

1) RABIES VACCINATION REQUIREMENT:

A. HORSES, SHEEP, CATTLE, DOGS, CATS, & FERRETS:

- 1) Current Official Rabies Vaccination Certificate must be presented upon request. (for details see Rule 6.03 of *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>)
- 2) For animals over six (6) months of age when the initial vaccine was administered, thirty (30) days must lapse before the animal is considered Officially Vaccinated.
- 3) Animals between three (3) months of age and (6) months of age are considered Officially Vaccinated immediately upon receiving the vaccine UNLESS there is history of recent exposure to a potentially rabid animal.

B. DOMESTIC ANIMALS for which no USDA approved vaccine exists (including but not limited to goats, camelids, and swine), and which are used for public display, exhibition or show, must be either:

- 1) Separated from the public by sufficient means so as to prevent direct animal/public contact, or,
- 2) 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. (example signage attached at the end of this document)
- 3) 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.

2) INDIVIDUAL SPECIES REQUIREMENTS

A. ALL ANIMALS entered at Fairs and Shows must be in proper physical condition and are subject to examination 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.

Evidence of any contagious or infectious disease will result in an animal's rejection for entrance. 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 diseases.

Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI / Health Certificate) must specifically state the location or property where the animals are regularly housed. Certificates and Test Reports must be available to inspectors at each exhibition. Certificates that list P.O. boxes will be rejected.

All required tests and vaccinations must be performed within required time for exhibition.

All out-of-state animals exhibiting in Rhode Island must be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI /Health Certificate) from the state of origin. CVIs must be dated no earlier than 30 days prior to entry to the first show of the season in any New England State. CVIs will be considered valid for Show and Exhibition purposes for the remainder of the calendar year. Prior entry or import permits are not required for show purposes or temporary importation.

Exception: Certain events may be granted a waiver by which animals brought into Rhode Island by out-of-state exhibitors for a specific event may be allowed entry into Rhode Island without a CVI. Requests for waivers must be submitted by the event coordinator, in writing, no less than thirty days prior to the event. All requests must be submitted to the Rhode Island State Veterinarian. The State Veterinarian will respond in writing to all such requests, and if the request is granted, reserves the right to impose conditions on the waiver that are at least as protective of animal health as a CVI would be. Conditions of any waiver granted will encumber any animals on exhibit as well as any animals imported by the exhibitor, but that are not on exhibit.

B. CATTLE: All out-of-state cattle:

- (1) Must be negative to a tuberculosis test not more than 60 days prior to entry to the first show of the season in Rhode Island or from a herd certified TB free within 365 days.
- (2) Must be negative to a Brucellosis Blood Test not more than 30 days prior to the first show of the season, unless from a Negative Herd tested within 12 months, or, in case of breeding cattle, if officially vaccinated for Brucellosis and under 18 months of age. Steers and spayed heifers are exempt from brucellosis testing requirement. All cattle under 4 months of age are exempt from brucellosis testing requirement.
- (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. Record of vaccination, TB tests and blood tests must be available.
- (4) In-state origin cattle must be identified and vaccinated as below.

All cattle must be officially identified in compliance with all federal or state identification requirements in order to assure each animal is vaccinated and that all records are accurate. Owners are responsible for validating all identification.

RABIES PER 1A

C. GOATS:

- (1) All out-of-state origin goats must come from Tuberculosis free and Brucellosis free herds with the herd being validated (tested) within the previous twelve months, or,
- (2) All out-of-state origin goats not originating from Tuberculosis free and Brucellosis free herds must meet the following requirements:
 - (a) All individual out-of-state origin goats must be tested Tuberculosis negative within 60 days and Brucellosis negative within 30 days prior to the first show of the season. Goats under 4 months of age are exempt from brucellosis testing, and,
 - (b) Any goats 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.
- (3) All goats enrolled in the Voluntary Scrapie Eradication 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.**

All goats must be officially identified in compliance with all federal or state identification requirements in order to assure that all records are accurate. Owners are responsible for validating all identification.

RABIES PER 1B

D. SHEEP: All sheep must:

- (1) All out-of-state origin sheep must be accompanied by a Health Certificate showing animals clinically free of scrapie or infectious diseases and exposure thereto.
- (2) No sheep will be allowed from flocks in which Scrapie has been diagnosed or from flocks under current surveillance for Scrapie without prior approval.
- (3) 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 vaccination.
- (4) All sheep originating from states or regions that are endemic for Bluetongue must be tested negative for Bluetongue within 30 days of entry into Rhode Island.
- (5) Sheep enrolled in the Voluntary Scrape Eradication Program must be kept separate from non-enrolled sheep and goats by a vacant pen, alleyway, or solid physical barrier sufficient to prevent contact between the animals and their excretions. Contact within the show ring and common areas will be limited and commingling not allowed. **Sheep on exhibition are prohibited from having contact with lambing ewes and kidding does.**

All Sheep must be officially identified in compliance with all federal or state identification requirements in order to assure that all records are accurate. Owners are responsible for validating all identification.

RABIES PER 1A

E. SWINE:

- (1) All out-of-state origin swine must have official identification and be in compliance with current federal and state identification regulations.
- (2) All out-of-state origin swine must come from Brucellosis free and Pseudorabies free herds with the herd being validated (tested) within the previous twelve months.
- (3) All out-of-state origin swine not originating from Brucellosis free and Pseudorabies free herds must meet the following requirements:
 - (a) All swine 6 months of age or older must be tested Brucellosis and Pseudorabies negative within 30 days prior to the first show of the season.

RABIES PER 1B

F. POULTRY:

- (1) All Poultry will be individually inspected and must be properly identified or banded in compliance with federal and state programs.
- (2) 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.
- (3) No poultry from states or areas under quarantine for disease will be allowed entry.

G. CAMELIDS: (llamas, alpacas, etc.)

- (1) Must be negative to a tuberculosis test not more than 60 days prior to entry to the first show of the season in Rhode Island or from a herd certified TB free within 365 days.
- (2) Must be negative to a Brucellosis Blood Test not more than 30 days prior to the first show of the season, unless from a Negative Herd tested within 12 months.
- (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.
- (4) In-state origin Camelids must be officially identified and vaccinated as below.

RABIES PER 1B

H. EQUINES: All out-of-state equine:

- (1) Must have a Health Certificate / Certificate of Equine Examination showing ownership and farm of origin, issued within 30 days prior to entry to the first event of the season.
- (2) Out-of-state animals must have official copy of Coggins (EIA) testing within 12 months of the date of the event, per Rhode Island Importation Regulations.
- (3) Vaccination against Eastern Equine Encephalitis, West Nile Virus, Influenza, Rhinopneumonitis and Strangles is suggested but not required.
- (4) In-State origin equines must be officially identified and provide proof of vaccinations.

RABIES PER 1A

I. SMALL ANIMALS: All dogs, cats, and ferrets:

- (1) Must be accompanied by Official Proof of Rabies Vaccination, in compliance with Rhode Island State Laws.
- (2) Out-of-state animals must have a Health Certificate issued within 30 days of the date of the first event of the season.
- (3) Vaccination against common diseases is recommended.
- (4) RI Ferrets must show proof of permit through RI DEM Fish and Wildlife

RABIES PER 1A

J. SPECIAL NOTE:

- (1) Tests listed shall be good for the entire show season, with the exception of Bluetongue and Anaplasmosis for animals residing in endemic area (30 days).
- (2) Isolate all animals and poultry upon their return to the farm after any exhibitions and observe them for signs of disease as they may have been exposed to incubating or airborne diseases that were not evident at the time of exhibition.
- (3) Individual events may require more stringent health regulations prior to entry, but may not waive any of the above.
- (4) Any State, Local or Event Official may request at any time that testing be performed on any animal that is suspected of being diseased, falsely identified, or drugged/medicated, that testing being whatever deemed reasonably required to investigate the suspected illness, drug use, or problem.

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 or fax 401-222-6047

Address all inquiries to:

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