



Ref: CTO 2014 160 [G]

Zoo: Meerkats Leptospirosis, Babesia and Internal Parasites

CTO direction to biosecurity inspectors for the clearance of zoo meerkats.

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Vicki Melville, Manager Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for zoo meerkats to be given clearance in accordance with the following measures, different from those in the applicable import health standard for the importation of slender-tailed meerkat (*Suricata suricatta*) into New Zealand (zoomeic.all):

Clause 4.1 of the veterinary certificate requires that the animal was treated for leptospirosis with dihydrostreptomycin at a therapeutic dose rate for 5 consecutive days.

This CTO direction allows treatment for Leptospirosis with Streptacare at the manufacturers recommended dose rate for 3 consecutive days.

Clause 4.4 and 4.5 of the veterinary certificate require:

1. A faecal sample taken from the animal was examined for the presence of coccidial oocysts, and if found to be positive, the animal was subsequently treated with an effective product for the treatment of coccidial infections according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
2. The animal was subjected to two faecal examinations, at least 14 days apart, using a floatation concentration method (able to detect 1 egg/3g of faeces) with negative results. (based on that of: Egwang TG, Slocombe JOD. Evaluation of the Cornwell-Wisconsin centrifugal flotation technique for recovering trichostrongylid eggs from bovine faeces. Canadian Journal of Comparative Medicine 46, 133-7, 1982.)

This CTO direction will allow that the McMaster flotation method may be used to detect coccidian oocysts and faecal eggs.

Clause 5 of the Veterinary certificate requires that all laboratory tests were conducted at a Government laboratory or a laboratory approved by the Government Veterinary Service of this country.

This CTO direction allows that babesia testing may be carried out by the Royal Veterinary College of the United Kingdom.

Clause 4.3 of the veterinary certificate requires blood smears which have been appropriately stained to be examined for babesia and found to be negative.

This CTO direction will allow that an indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT) may be used to test for babesia.

The reason for directing clearance is that the biosecurity risks associated with this CTO direction have been assessed and are managed effectively. Historic equivalence has been given for the above based on several tests and treatments being outdated in the import health standard

This direction takes effect from the date of signing and continues in effect until amended or revoked.

Standards

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