



## agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:  
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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To whom it may concern.

### RE: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOR ANIMALS IN TRANSIT BY SEA

The arrival of dogs (and cats) in South Africa on yachts refers:

These dogs and cats will not be allowed off the yacht, nor may they accompany their owners visiting/touring South Africa. These animals pose a potential risk to the health of both our animal and human populations, as several of the diseases of concern to the South African Veterinary Authority are zoonotic and may infect people as well as dogs.

The South African import requirements require a veterinary health certificate signed by the Government Veterinarian of the exporting country. It also includes the requirement for negative testing for *Brucella canis*, *Babesia gibsoni*, *Dirofilaria immitis*, *Trypanosoma evansi* and *Leishmania*, within 30 days of import. Usually it is not possible for these animals to comply with these requirements, as they visit many countries along the way and the time spent on the ocean would result in the expiry of the veterinary health certificate and test results.

Since the yacht owners and their pets are usually only visiting South Africa for a short period of time, the dogs are not imported into South Africa. Therefore, the animals must remain quarantine on the yacht.

Since the animals visit many countries along the way, quarantine would be required for any of the dogs which have travelled with their owners on yachts to enter South Africa. The South African state quarantine facilities are located in Kempton Park (Johannesburg) and Cape Town. Therefore, the dogs would either have to arrive in Cape Town and be transported to the Cape Town quarantine facility under state veterinary supervision, or they would need to be flown to OR Tambo International Airport from the last country visited prior to South Africa.

If clients wish to stay for a significant period of time, they will need to follow the same procedure as for animals arriving via air. They would need a veterinary import permit, vaccination records, negative blood test results, a health certificate signed by an official veterinarian and history of the countries the animals have visited on their journey, including details of how long the animals spent in specific places and whether or not they came into contact with other animals.

We appreciate the assistance of the yacht clubs in making this information available to people visiting South Africa on their yachts. Please find attached a copy of the information document for the import of dogs and cats, which can be provided to potential visitors. Please refer any queries in this regard to [LeratoDI@Dalrrd.gov.za](mailto:LeratoDI@Dalrrd.gov.za) and [WeekendM@Dalrrd.gov.za](mailto:WeekendM@Dalrrd.gov.za) and copy [GretnaDW@Dalrrd.gov.za](mailto:GretnaDW@Dalrrd.gov.za).

Kind regards,

For Director Animal Health

Date: 2021-10-11