



IMPORTATION OF GUINEA PIGS, MICE & HAMSTERS

Conditions for Importation:

The permit is issued subject to the conditions stated below. The veterinary authority of the Virgin Islands reserves the right to render this permit void at any time when in its judgment, such is deemed necessary.

- (1) Permission for entry will only be granted if the guinea pig(s) is/are accompanied by an **export health certificate** issued by the ***veterinary authority** of the country of origin stating:-
 - a) The country of origin has had no cases of rabies in the establishment of origin for twelve (12) months before shipment.
 - b) The guinea pig(s) originated from the establishment(s) is/are regularly inspected by the government veterinary officer and are reputable.
 - c) That guinea pig(s) is/are born and bred or has/have been reared for at least twelve (12) months in-country for which this permit is issued.
 - d) The guinea pig(s) was/were examined and found free from clinical disease before export.
 - e) Animal(s) was/were treated against internal and external parasites (particularly ringworm, coccidiosis and ear mange).
- (2) Guinea pig(s) must be found healthy on arrival.
- (3) **ALL REQUIRED CONDITIONS MUST BE MET AND ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS (IMPORT PERMIT, VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE, LAB TEST RESULTS ETC.) MUST BE PRESENTED AT THE PORT OF ENTRY, TO FACILITATE VETERINARY CLEARANCE.**
- (4) **THE VETERINARY DIVISION MUST BE GIVEN AT LEAST 24 HOURS NOTICE OF CONFIRMED ARRIVAL DATE, TIME, AIRLINE/VESSEL AND THE PORT OF ENTRY. THIS WILL FACILITATE UNNECESSARY DELAYS AND AVOID DETENTION OF ANIMAL(S) FOR VETERINARY CLEARANCE AT THE PORT OF ENTRY. THEREFORE, THE GRANTING OF PERMIT FOR ANIMAL(S) TO BE PRESENTED FOR INSPECTION TO ENTER THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DOES NOT SIGNIFY AUTOMATIC ENTRY.**
- (5) Upon submission of the application, the specified fee schedule will be applied.

***An official health certificate is a document issued and certified by a veterinarian working full time with the government of the country of origin (e.g. USDA, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, DEFRA, etc.). The document may be filled out and signed by a licensed veterinarian, but must also be endorsed by a government veterinarian.**

Please be advised, these requirements are subject to change since animal disease status in various countries is dynamic. Therefore, the granting of permission for the animal(s) to enter the Virgin Islands does not signify automatic entry. It is your responsibility to contact the Veterinary Division, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to confirm these conditions are current.

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