



IMPORTATION OF RABBITS

Conditions for Importation:

- (1) Rabbit(s) must be accompanied by a **health certificate** issued by the ***veterinary authority** of the country of origin stating:-
 - a) The country of origin has been free from Tularemia, Myxomatosis and Viral Hemorrhagic Disease of rabbits for at least one (1) year.
 - b) There have been no cases of Rabies in the establishment of origin for twelve (12) months before shipment.
 - c) That rabbit(s) originate from establishments that are regularly inspected by the government veterinary officer and high standards are maintained.
 - d) That rabbit(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.
 - e) That rabbit(s) was/were examined and found free from clinical disease before export.
 - f) The animal(s) was/were treated against internal and external parasites (particularly coccidiosis and ear mange).
- (2) Rabbit(s) must be found clinically healthy on arrival.
- (3) **All required conditions must be met, and all relevant documents (import permit, veterinary health certificate, vaccination certificate, lab test results, etc.) must be presented at the port of entry to facilitate veterinary clearance and to avoid the otherwise unpleasant but necessary measures such as animals being kept in a facility, deportation or euthanasia.**
- (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 permits for animals 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.
- (6) Animal(s) must be kept in confinement (carrier) until granted entry into the Territory. Failure to do so can cause entry of animal(s) being denied.

***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 animals 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.

Last Updated: February 2020