



IMPORTATION OF TURTLES AND OTHER REPTILES

Conditions for Importation:

- (1) Permission for landing will only be granted if the turtle(s)/reptile(s) is/are accompanied by an **Animal Health Certificate** issued by the ***veterinary authority** in the country of origin stating:
 - (a) Proper identification of the animal(s)
 - (b) That the turtle(s) is/are healthy and free from symptoms of infectious or contagious diseases.
 - (c) That the turtle(s) has/have been in the country of origin/export for at least six (6) months immediately preceding importation into the Territory.
- (2) A **CITES** Certificate of the country of origin must accompany the turtle(s).
- (3) Turtle(s) must be found clinically healthy on arrival.
- (4) The Veterinary Division **must be given at least 24 hours notice** of confirmed arrival date, time, airline/vessel and port of entry. This will facilitate no unnecessary delays and avoid detention of animal(s) for veterinary clearance at the port of entry.
- (5) **All required conditions must be met and all documents (import permit, health certificate, CITES Certificate) must be present at the port of disembarkation to facilitate veterinary clearance and to avoid the otherwise unpleasant, but necessary measures such as animals being kept in a facility, deportation or euthanasia. Therefore, the granting of permits for animals to be presented for inspection to enter the Virgin Islands does not signify automatic entry.**
- (6) 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 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.

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