



**Australian Government**  
**Biosecurity Australia**

6 November 2006

**BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2006/33**

**AMENDMENT TO THE IMPORT CONDITIONS FOR DOGS – *Leishmania* species**

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum (BAPM) provides stakeholders with the final import requirements for *Leishmania* species that will be included in the import conditions of dogs into Australia. The conditions take effect from 6 November 2006.

Current conditions for the importation of dogs and cats have been in place since 1997. Proposed requirements for *Leishmania* species to be included in the import conditions for dogs were circulated for stakeholder comment in February 2006 (BAPM 2006/04).

A number of stakeholders provided comments on the proposed requirements. Expert opinion was sought when considering these comments and finalising the conditions. A summary of stakeholder comments and Biosecurity Australia's responses is at Attachment A.

The final requirements for *Leishmania* species remain similar to those proposed in BAPM 2006/04. Changes relate to stakeholder comments on the suitability of tests for detecting *Leishmania* species. A single serological test is considered sufficient risk management for leishmaniasis in dogs, in conjunction with the current conditions for dogs relating to residency and quarantine periods. All dogs\* will require a negative test result by the indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT) or the enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) prior to export. These tests are used most commonly in laboratories testing for leishmaniasis. The Giemsa stained blood smear which was included in the proposed requirements is no longer specified as a test requirement because of its low sensitivity.

The quarantine requirements for *Leishmania* species will be included in 'Section III: SANITARY INFORMATION of VETERINARY CERTIFICATE A' of the import conditions for dogs. The certification requires that 'the dog was tested for *Leishmania* species within 30 days prior to export by an indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT), or an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), as described in the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) Manual, with a negative result as defined by the approved testing laboratory. The use of any other test requires prior permission from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS).'

The certification requires details of the (a) date of sample collection, (b) the test used, and (c) the result of the test. The laboratory report of *Leishmania* species test result (or a copy endorsed by an Official Veterinarian) must be attached to the certificate.

\* The conditions for *Leishmania* species do not apply to dogs that have been continuously resident in New Zealand since birth or continuously resident in New Zealand since importation from Australia.

## **Consultation**

These requirements come into effect from 6 November 2006. Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should get in touch with the contact officer listed below. Alternatively, if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please advise the contact officer.

Information on import risk analyses and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on the Internet at [www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au](http://www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au)

## **Confidentiality**

Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to BAPMs will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the *Privacy Act 1988*.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

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