



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

10 July 2006

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2006/19

POLICY REVIEW FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CAMELID EMBRYOS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA)

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum (BAPM) seeks comment from stakeholders on a proposed policy for the importation of camelid embryos from the USA. Comments on the proposed import conditions would be appreciated by 9 August 2006.

Currently Australia permits the importation of camelids from the USA under conditions that were adopted in December 1993. There has been regular trade in small numbers of animals under these conditions.

In response to interest in importing camelid genetics, Biosecurity Australia has undertaken a policy review of the biosecurity risks associated with the importation of camelid embryos that includes the latest available scientific information and developments in embryo transfer.

The draft import conditions for camelid embryos from the USA (Attachment A) have been developed from the existing policy for camelids from the USA. As little is known about the transmission of disease by embryo transfer in camelids, the proposed conditions include all risk management measures in the conditions for camelids, except those for parasites and grass seeds.

Other minor differences address the fact that the donor animals are not imported and, consequently, their health status is only pertinent before and during the collection period.

A comparison table of the risk management measures associated with the importation of camelids from the USA and proposed measures for camelid embryos is at Attachment B.

The requirements for collection, handling and storage of the embryos are in accordance with the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Appendix 3.3.1: the collection and processing of *in vivo* derived embryos. This Appendix includes reference to camelid embryos.

Consultation

Biosecurity Australia would welcome stakeholder comments on the proposed draft conditions by 9 August 2006. Comments will be considered as Biosecurity Australia finalises the policy review.

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 (details below).

Information on import risk analyses and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available from our website www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au.

Confidentiality

Respondents 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. Comments 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*.

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*.

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