

## Attachment A

Summary of technical responses to ABPM 2001/08

### Main points

*It was suggested that zoo Felidae should also be vaccinated against feline rhinotracheitis, feline calicivirus and feline panleucopaenia.*

It is agreed that good management of animals in quarantine should include measures to prevent the animals succumbing to preventable diseases, even when they are endemic. This measure has been included as a general measure under 4.1 and as a certification requirement under “2.2.9 Miscellaneous parasites and general health”.

*It was suggested that a thorough physical examination should be included as a pre-export measure.*

The draft requirements required the exporting veterinarian to certify that the animal had been examined and found free from external parasites. The requirements do not spell out that the animal must be anaesthetised for this examination, but it is left to the veterinarian performing the examination to anaesthetise for this purpose if necessary.

*A concern was raised that if a zoo Felid were to develop feline spongiform encephalopathy (FSE) after arrival in Australia that it could have a potential trade impact.*

Biosecurity Australia acknowledges the concerns expressed. However, in applying the IRA process, it was concluded that there was negligible risk of an imported zoo Felid being turned into meat and bone meal for feeding to livestock. On this basis, the risk of spread of a TSE from an imported zoo Felid was considered negligible. The criteria for applying quarantine measures were not met.

It should also be noted that this occurrence did take place in Western Australia some years ago, when a Cheetah imported from the UK developed FSE. It was accepted at the time that the animal had contracted the disease in the UK, and Australia’s BSE-free status was not affected.

*It was suggested that non-domestic Felidae should also be serologically tested and required to have a rabies neutralising antibody titre consistent with that required for domestic cats.*

The literature and advice from other zoos did not indicate that blood tests were normally conducted on vaccinated zoo Felidae. However, it was agreed that it was reasonable to require the test to be done. The risk management section and import conditions have been adjusted accordingly.

*Concern was raised that the minimum age limits on vaccination against distemper and rabies would preclude the importation of very young cubs. This respondent explained that hand reared cubs are preferred for familiarising them with human contact.*

With respect to the conditions for rabies and distemper, there is no minimum age limit on the importation of non-domestic Felidae from countries free from rabies, or institutions free from distemper.<sup>1</sup>

There is also an option to import animals from institutions in countries not free from rabies, provided the institution has been free from rabies for 12 months, and is protected against intrusion by rabies vectors. Such an animal is then required to serve 6 months post-arrival quarantine.

Biosecurity Australia cannot agree to the importation of cubs less than ten months of age from, say an open range zoo in a country not free from rabies, because they must comply with the recommended rabies vaccination schedule. The reasons are discussed in section 4.2.1 of the IRA final.

## **Other Comments**

*Pre-export examination should include thorough physical examination.*

Already required

*Pre-export certification should include adequate vaccination history for other common feline viral diseases.*

Included in final report

*Include requirement that AQIS be informed of any illness/death and require PM and tests etc.*

Included in final report

*Disagrees with statement that “the practice of feeding dead zoo animals to Felidae has ceased in Australia.”*

Deleted, only the situation in overseas zoos is relevant to discussion.

*List of common and scientific names is incomplete.*

Included all mentioned in ASMP regional census & plan.

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<sup>1</sup> In the case of animals listed by CITES, a Management Authority of the State of export must be satisfied that any living specimen will be so prepared and shipped as to minimise the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment. It is expected that the welfare aspects of shipping very young animals would be covered by this requirement.

*Suggest potential trade impact if TSE in imported Felidae in zoo in Australia.*

Has already occurred without trade repercussions.

*Suggests rabies titre testing of non-domestic Felidae*

A further study of literature on vaccination titres in cats led Biosecurity Australia to decide that extrapolation of the OIE measure required for domestic cats to non-domestic Felidae was appropriate. Changes have been made to IRA.

*Importation of young cubs preferred, and vaccination protocol for rabies precludes cubs less than 4 months of age.*

Vaccination requirements cannot be relaxed, as animals too young to vaccinate have been known to develop rabies. Importation from rabies-free countries still permitted for younger animals.

*Raises possibility of using passive immunity via vaccinated dams.*

Passive immunity via milk does not protect against challenge.

## **Attachment B**

### **Respondents**

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