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Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY –
AUSTRALIA**

29 April 2003

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2003/13

NONHUMAN PRIMATES – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERIM QUARANTINE CONDITIONS

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with a second draft of amended interim quarantine conditions for the importation of nonhuman primates (Attachment A). These further amendments follow consideration of stakeholder comments on the draft circulated under ABPM 2002/50. We would welcome comments by 30 May 2003.

Attached to this ABPM is a further draft of proposed amended interim quarantine conditions for the importation of nonhuman primates. The previous draft was one of a number of proposed amended quarantine requirements for the importation of a range of zoo animals circulated under ABPM 2002/50 of 4 December 2002. The other proposed amended conditions did little more than update contact details for Environment Australia and references to Chief Quarantine Officers (Animals) and registered zoos. The proposed changes for nonhuman primates were more extensive to bring the interim conditions more in line with the recommendations of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) International Animal Health Code.

A number of stakeholders commented on the December proposals for nonhuman primates. In light of these comments, we have decided to issue another draft for stakeholder consideration and comment.

Changes from the draft circulated in December include:

- A. Deletion of the requirement that the animals be accompanied by a document describing the health-monitoring program in the premises of origin. Certification that the premises is under permanent veterinary supervision and has a health-monitoring program, which includes disease investigation and post-mortem examinations, is considered sufficient.
- B. Deletion of reference to premises freedom from Marburg, Ebola and herpes-B from the requirements for marmosets and tamarins. Herpes-B is relevant to macaques, which are the only carriers.
- C. Requiring the premises of origin to be free from tuberculosis for five years rather than two.
- D. Requiring the animals to undergo 30 days pre-export isolation and remain free from disease during that time.
- E. Amending the requirement for individual health records to two years rather than whole of life.
- F. Addition of a post-arrival test for tuberculosis for marmosets and tamarins.
- G. Deletion of the requirement that management during post-arrival quarantine be in accordance with Appendix 3.5.1. of the Code. The Code recommendation is that these measures only apply “in the case of non-human primates imported directly from a country

within the natural range of the animal's species concerned, and where only limited health guarantees can be given". These conditions do not cover such imports.

The interim requirements are only to apply until completion of the nonhuman primates Import Risk Analysis (IRA) currently being undertaken and the consequent adoption of a new policy. As part of the IRA, we recently circulated for comment a Technical Issues Paper (ABPM 2003/08 of 20 March 2003) that identified the main pest and diseases.

Next Steps

Biosecurity Australia would welcome your comments on the attached draft requirements by 30 May 2003. We will take into account stakeholder comments as we finalise the interim conditions.

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).

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to ABPMs 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.

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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