

State Regulations for Virgin Islands

*** GENERAL REQUIREMENTS ***

Effective Date: June 1982

Last Update: June 2015

US VIRGIN ISLANDS

Health Requirements Governing the Admission Of Animals

For More Information on Current Regulations Please Contact

Director of Veterinary Services

Office of the Commissioner

Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture

RR1 Box 10345, Kingshill, St. Croix,

USVI 00850

Whenever the laws and regulations concerning the movements and health of livestock, poultry, birds, and other animals into the Virgin Islands are more restrictive than the laws and regulations of the Federal Government, the laws and regulations of the Virgin Islands shall apply in addition to those of the Federal Government.

No livestock, poultry, birds or other animals that are affected with or have been exposed to an infectious, contagious, communicable disease, or ectoparasites or which originated in an area quarantined by a territory, State, or the Federal Government because of such disease or parasites shall be permitted to be introduced into the Virgin Islands except with a permit issued by the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture of the Virgin Islands. Dogs and cats do not need an import permit.

Applications for a permit can be obtained by email Bethany.bradford@doa.vi.gov or by mail at the following address: Office of the Director of Veterinary Services, RR1 Box 10345, Kingshill, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 00850.

The following information must be made available in the application:

1. Name, mailing address, physical address, telephone and email address of consignor and consignee.
2. Species and number of animals.
3. Identification number of each animal (tattoo, microchip, ear tag)

4. Point of origin.
5. Proposed date of shipment.
6. Destination and local address and farm or premises identification number.
7. Means of transportation.
8. Reason for shipment and use of animals.

Mail the application with payment to Office of the Director of Veterinary Services, RR1 Box 10345, Kingshill. St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 00850.

Permits for horses are \$75.00 per horse. All other permits are \$25.00 per species.

All livestock, poultry, birds, and other animals entering the Virgin Islands under permit shall be consigned to an individual who is a resident of the Virgin Islands or to a legal entity authorized by law to do business with the Virgin Islands.

The consignee shall hold the animals upon arrival until all the provisions of the permit have been met. All permits shall be void 2 months after issuance.

All livestock, poultry, birds, and other animals entering the Virgin Islands shall upon arrival remain in the custody of the carrier pending an inspection and release by an authorized veterinarian or a designated agent of the Department of Agriculture of the Virgin Islands. All livestock, poultry, birds, and other animals must have, upon entering the Virgin Islands, an official health certificate. An official health certificate is a legible official form completed and issued by a licensed accredited veterinarian of the State of origin or by a veterinarian employed by either the State of origin or the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and which contains:

1. The complete name and address of the consignor and the consignee, including final destination if different from consignee's address, and;
2. An accurate description with complete identification of the animal(s) listed, and;
3. The date and results of any required test(s) conducted, and;
4. A complete description (including dates of administration) of any vaccinations and/or treatment, and;
5. Designation of the purpose the animal is to be imported for (i.e., breeding, sale, etc.).

A copy of this health certificate must be sent to the Director of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Agriculture, RR1 Box 10345, Kingshill, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 00850. This certificate shall become void 30 days after issuance. Endorsement of health certificate by USDA is not necessary.

Any livestock, poultry, birds, or other animals upon entering the Virgin Islands are subject to immediate quarantine, test, or treatment as directed by the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture.

Any livestock, poultry, birds, or other animals that enter the Virgin Islands which is found to be affected, a carrier of or been recently exposed to any infectious, contagious, or communicable disease, shall be returned to its point of origin or destroyed and disposed of as directed by the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture or his authorized representative, at the expense of the

owner or importer. The Government of the Virgin Islands in no way shall render any compensation for any animals so destroyed.

All animals that enter into the Virgin Islands from areas where screwworms are known to exist must be accompanied by an accredited certificate stating that the animal(s) has been treated with an insecticide approved by the USDA. The animal must also be examined by a Federal or State Veterinarian of the State of origin immediately before shipment and has been found free of screwworms.

Animals that originate from outside of the United States, Federal Import Regulations are in effect. For more information please go to www.aphis.usda.gov .

***** CATTLE *****

All cattle, dairy or beef, which enter into the Virgin Islands, must be permanently identified by eartag, firebrands or tattoo.

Brucellosis

All cattle, dairy or beef, entering the Virgin Islands must be completely negative to a serum agglutination tube test or card test for brucellosis within 30 days prior to the date of shipment.

Exceptions:

1. Calves less than 6 months of age.
2. Officially brucellosis vaccinated dairy heifers under 20 months and heifers of the beef breeds under 24 months.
3. Cattle which are sent directly to a Federally approved slaughter establishment for immediate slaughter. The cattle must be accompanied by an appropriate transport certificate.
4. Cattle that have originated from certified brucellosis free herds.

Tuberculosis

All cattle upon entering the Virgin Islands must have been found to be negative to a tuberculosis test within 30 days prior to the date of entry. Also, they must have originated from a tuberculosis free accredited herd or State or a modified accredited area from a herd tested negative within 12 months.

The date and results of the tuberculin test must be recorded on the health certificate.

Cattle which are sent directly to a Federally approved slaughter establishment for immediate slaughter are exempted from the tuberculin test requirements. However, they must be accompanied by an appropriate transport certificate.

***** HORSES & OTHER EQUIDAE *****

All equidae entering the Virgin Islands will be required to be vaccinated for eastern and western equine encephalomyelitis and West Nile virus. The vaccination information must be stated on the health certificate giving the date of vaccination and complete identification of the animal.

A permit to enter the Virgin Islands must be obtained from the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture of the Virgin Islands prior to the arrival of the equidae.

All equidae entering the Virgin Islands must be tested and found negative to the AGID (Coggins) test for equine infected anemia within the last 12 months prior to entry. An exception is nursing foals accompanied in shipment by a AGID tested negative dam.

The AGID (Coggins) test must be performed by a USDA approved laboratory, with samples being collected by an accredited veterinarian or State or Federal regulatory personnel. The results of the AGID (Coggins) test shall be stated on the official health certificate, stating the name and address of the laboratory performing the test, the date, and the results of the test.

***** HOGS *****

All swine must have a permit to enter the Virgin Islands issued by the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture, Estate Lower Love, Kingshill, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 00850.

Breeding and Feeder Swine

All swine entering the Virgin Islands must have an official health certificate stating:

1. That the swine originated from a certified brucellosis free herd or were found negative to a serum agglutination tube test or card test for brucellosis within 30 days prior to the date of shipment.
2. That the swine are from a certified hog cholera free State and have not been vaccinated with any anti-hog cholera vaccine or serum.
3. That the swine originated from herds not known to be infected with pseudorabies and are negative to the SN (serum neutralization) test for pseudorabies within 30 days prior to shipment.
4. That the swine did not originate from garbage fed herds.

Swine for Immediate Slaughter

Swine for immediate slaughter may enter the Virgin Islands with a prior permit issued by the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture without further restriction provided they originated from a hog cholera free State, a pseudorabies free herd, and are consigned directly to a slaughter establishment that is Federally approved.

***** SHEEP *****

All sheep and goats entering the Virgin Islands shall be accompanied by an official health certificate stating:

1. That they originated in a State officially declared free of scabies and scrapie.
2. That they are from herds that are not quarantined for any contagious or communicable disease.
3. That they are not the progeny of scrapie infected animals.
4. That they were found negative to a test for tuberculosis and brucellosis within 30 days prior to date of shipment.

The sheep must have been dipped in a USDA approved dip within 15 days prior to entry and so stated on the health certificate.

***** GOATS *****

1. That they originated in a State officially declared free of scabies and scrapie.
2. That they are from herds that are not quarantined for any contagious or communicable disease.
3. That they are not the progeny of scrapie infected animals.
4. That they were found negative to a test for tuberculosis and brucellosis within 30 days prior to date of shipment.

All goats entering the Virgin Islands must test negative for caprine arthritis encephalitis.

The goats must have been treated with a USDA approved ectoparasiticide within 15 days prior to entry and so stated on the health certificate.

***** DOGS *****

All dogs upon entering the Virgin Islands shall be accompanied by an official health certificate stating that the animal did not originate from an area quarantined for rabies. All dogs must have been vaccinated for rabies within 12 months prior to the date of shipment except those dogs less than 12 weeks old. The certificate of vaccination for rabies must be attached to the official health certificate. Dogs do not require an import permit.

***** CATS *****

All cats upon entering the Virgin Islands shall be accompanied by an official health certificate stating that the animal did not originate from an area quarantined for rabies. All cats must have been vaccinated for rabies within 12 months prior to the date of shipment except those cats less than 12 weeks old. The certificate of vaccination for rabies must be attached to the official health certificate. Cats do not require an import permit.

***** PSITTACINE BIRDS *****

All psittacine birds must have a prior permit, issued by the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Department of Planning and Natural Resources, upon entry into the Virgin Islands. The birds must also be accompanied by an official health certificate stating that the birds are free from an infectious or contagious disease and did not originate from a quarantined area for any infectious or contagious disease of the species.

***** POULTRY & HATCHING EGGS *****

Hatching eggs, baby chicks, started chicks, turkey poults, chickens or turkeys entering the Virgin Islands must originate from flocks actively participating in the National Poultry Improvement Plan. This information shall be made available by a certificate attached to the official health certificate and both documents shall accompany the shipment.

Poultry for immediate slaughter may enter the Virgin Islands without the restrictions of the preceding paragraph if they are:

1. Consigned directly to a Federally approved slaughter establishment; and
2. Are accompanied by an appropriate transport certificate which gives the name and address of the consignee, slaughter establishment, and number of birds.

Gamefowl or poultry not from NPIP flocks may enter the USVI with a permit issued by the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture and a health certificate from a licensed accredited veterinarian. The health certificate must state that:

- the birds did not originate from a flock or area under quarantine
- the birds are not showing any clinical signs of any infectious or contagious disease

Birds or flock must test negative for avian influenza. Each bird over 5 months of age must be individually identified.

***** BISON *****

See General Requirements.

***** LLAMAS *****

See General Requirements.

***** ELK *****

See General Requirements.

***** RABBITS *****

See General Requirements.

***** ZOO, FUR-BEARING, & OTHER WILD ANIMALS *****

Fur-bearing animals, other domesticated wild animals, and zoo animals must have a permit to enter the Virgin Islands issued by the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture, RR1 Box 10345, Kingshill, St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00850, and shall be accompanied by an official health certificate.

***** SEMEN & FROZEN EMBRYOS *****

See General Requirements.

***** BIOLOGICS, MICROORGANISMS, & PARASITES *****

No microorganism or parasite specimens or samples shall be permitted entry into the Virgin Islands without the written approval of the State or Federal veterinarian.

***** EMERGENCY PROVISIONS *****

See General Requirements.