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**North Carolina International Dog Importation Requirements**  
**From African Swine Fever Countries**

Friday, July 17, 2020

The importation of animals, including dogs, into the United States from countries that have an outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) poses a threat to swine production systems in North Carolina. Specifically, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) is concerned that these animals and/or their carriers and transport-associated materials could be possible fomites capable of carrying and spreading the disease. While we are not aware of any studies suggesting dogs to be biological carriers of ASF, dogs and transport-associated material(s) could be fomites under certain circumstances. Ticks or other external parasites on the animals are also a concern to spreading the disease.

Given the potential for these animals and transport associated material(s) to act as a fomite and that these animals have not gone through a quarantine in the United States, the Veterinary Division believes there to be sufficient risk to warrant acting with an abundance of caution and to take measures to prevent the possible entry of ASF through international arrival dogs.

Pursuant to authority granted to me under *North Carolina General Statutes §§ 106-401 and 106-402*, I am issuing the following quarantine notice and procedures for all dogs that originate from or travel through a country in which ASF has been diagnosed within the past five (5) years.

1. Importers should contact the NCDA&CS Veterinary Division Livestock Unit (phone at 919-707-3250 or email at [joe.web@ncagr.gov](mailto:joe.web@ncagr.gov)) at least ten (10) days prior to arrival of the animals into the state.
2. Upon notification to NCDA&CS of the arrival of the animal(s), submit all international paperwork to NCDA&CS after approval by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS), when applicable.
3. Prompt notice to NCDA&CS and submission of import paperwork will assist NCDA&CS in determining whether a quarantine is necessary or not.
4. The Veterinary Division may issue a quarantine on animals that originate from or travel through a country in which ASF has been diagnosed within the past five (5) years upon arrival in North Carolina.

- a. The importer shall identify the location(s) where the animal(s) will be housed during the quarantine period.
  - b. The importer shall minimize the number of locations with the strong preference for all animals to be housed at one site or facility. The preferred site for quarantine is a veterinary facility or a facility under the supervision of a veterinarian.
  - c. In the instance that the quarantine site is not a veterinary clinic, the Veterinary Division may inspect the facility prior to the arrival of the animal(s) to ascertain the suitability of the location. The importer must provide the Veterinary Division with sufficient notice in advance of the arrival of the animals for such inspections to be completed and modifications made if necessary.
  - d. The importer shall submit to the Veterinary Division written protocols addressing the proper handling of these animals and their transport accessories (e.g., bedding, food, toys, crates, etc.), disease monitoring and mitigation protocols, and veterinary care provision. Should the Veterinary Division reject or require modifications to the protocols, the importer shall modify and resubmit the protocols for approval prior to the arrival of the animals.
5. If a quarantine is issued, it will be in effect for a minimum of ten (10) days.
6. The quarantine may include, but not limited to:
- a. Isolation of the animals away from the public and swine;
  - b. Collection and disposal of feces in an appropriate method determined by the Veterinary Division;
  - c. Cleaning and disinfection of animal carriers (if any) and appropriate disposal of any transport-associated material(s) and animal waste incurred during travel as determined by the Veterinary Division; and
  - d. The animal caretaker implementing appropriate biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of exposure to ASF susceptible species during the quarantine period.

Pursuant to *North Carolina General Statute § 106-401*, the animal shall be maintained by the owner of the animal or the owner or operator of the premises at the expense of the owner of the animal or the owner or operator of the premises.

Should you have any questions regarding this notice or your obligations, please do not hesitate to contact the Veterinary Division Livestock Unit (phone at 919-707-3250 or email at [joe.web@ncagr.gov](mailto:joe.web@ncagr.gov)) for additional information.

This notice shall be in effect until rescinded.

Sincerely,



R. Douglas Meckes, DVM  
State Veterinarian