



Dr Sofia Boutsini
Director
Animal Health Directorate
Ministry of Rural Development and Food
GREECE

Dear Dr Boutsini

I am writing to request the assistance of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food of Greece on the safe trade of companion animals between Greece and Australia. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry implemented new import conditions for cats and dogs on 1 March 2023. These updates were based upon the *Review of rabies virus risk in imported dogs, cats and canine semen from approved countries – final report*. The department alerted all trading partners to the final report and update to the import conditions via the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) notification system on 13 January 2023 (G/SPS/N/AUS/559).

I wish to thank you for already using the new model declarations and certification for the export of companion animals to Australia. The department appreciates the Ministry of Rural Development and Food's support for our new import conditions and the facilitation of safe trade. These model declarations and certification can be used until 1 September 2023. After 1 September 2023, only bilaterally agreed declarations and certification may be accepted for the export of dogs and cats from Greece to Australia.

The model declarations and certificates (attachments 1-4) may be used as templates to develop Greece specific documentation. To ensure there is no disruption to trade, I am requesting your assistance to finalise Greece specific declarations and veterinary health certification. If these model declarations and certificates are acceptable, the department would be pleased to finalise the documents. To do this, please update these documents to include references to Greece and Ministry of Rural Development and Food as appropriate and, provide a sample copy of these documents on official paper or on Ministry of Rural Development and Food letterhead. The department can be contacted at companion.animals@agriculture.gov.au to discuss this process further.

I would be pleased to host a video conference between our agencies, for relevant technical officers to discuss the changes to import certification further if required. Please do not hesitate to contact the department through Ms Joanna Grainger, Minister-Counsellor (Agriculture) at the Australian Embassy in Brussels at Joanna.grainger@dfat.gov.au if needed.

Yours sincerely



Dr Peter Finin
Assistant Secretary
Animal Biosecurity

19 May 2023

CC Ms Joanna Grainger, Minister-Counsellor (Agriculture), Australian Embassy in Brussels

Attachments

1. Model identification declaration
2. Model rabies neutralisation antibody titre test declaration
3. Model veterinary health certificate for dogs from group 3 countries
4. Model veterinary health certificate for cats from group 3 countries