

Law No. 14 of 2003 on Veterinary Quarantine

We, Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar;
Having perused the Amended Provisional Constitution, in particular Articles 23, 34, and 51 thereof,
Law No. 1 of 1985 concerning the Animal Health, as amended,
Decree-Law No. 20 of 1993 on the organisation of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture and specifying its competencies as amended by Decree-Law No. 27 of 1995;
The Customs Law promulgated by Law No. 40 of 2002;
The Agreement on the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), Paris on 25/01/1924; as ratified by the State of Qatar by Decree No. 37 of 1994;
The GCC quarantine system / law adopted by the GCC Supreme Council, in its twenty-first session, held in Bahrain in December 2000,
The proposal of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture;
The draft law submitted by the Council of Ministers;
And after consulting the *Shura* Council,
Hereby promulgate the following law:

• Article 1

In the application of the provisions of this law, the following words and expressions shall have the meaning assigned respectively to each of them, unless the context requires otherwise:

“Member States” means the member States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (CCASG) or Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states;

“The Ministry” means the Ministry for Municipal Affairs and Agriculture;

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“Competent veterinary authority” means the Division of veterinary quarantine for the management of livestock in the Ministry

“Supervising Doctor/Veterinarian” means the Veterinarian appointed by the competent veterinary authority;

“Certificate of Approval” means the Certificate issued by the competent authority. Where the Certificate is not issued by a non-member state, it must be approved by the Embassy of the State of Qatar, or by the Embassy of any other member state, or its representative on behalf of the same.

“Veterinary quarantine” means the building or space for isolating animals for veterinary control with the aim of examining such animals to verify that they are free from epidemic diseases, without allowing them to come into contact with other animals, either directly or indirectly, upon arrival in the country; or the place designated for quarantine of animals or animal products;

“Animal” means animals, including fish and birds, whether for food or breeding or work or domestic purposes, or other such uses;

“Animals for slaughter” means animals that are imported for the purpose of slaughter and consumption, or that remain under veterinary supervision from the time they arrive until they are slaughtered;

“Animals for breeding” means animals imported for purposes other than slaughter, such as fattening, rearing, milk production, hybridization and other such purposes.

“Ornamental /Domestic animals” means animals used for the purpose of domestic keeping, such as cats and dogs, parrots, peacocks and ornamental and other fish;

“The equine family” means horses, mules, donkeys and wild asses and ponies.

“Animal Products” means red and white meats, fresh or dried, chilled or frozen, smoked or processed, minced meat, minced fish, fresh milk, dried or concentrated milk, milk products and their derivatives, eggs whether for the purpose of consumption or scientific purposes, sperm, embryos and animal gelatin.

“Animal waste” means the dung, blood, fresh or dried blood, horns and hooves, hair and wool and animal hair, leather, fur, feathers and animal manure, bones and organs, stomach or bellies and the remains of animals used in fertilizer, fins, fish bones, powdered bone and shells.

“Animal feed” means the processed or unprocessed food, including meat, poultry, fish and their

products and derivatives, offal, and whatever is used to feed animals.

“Biological animal samples” means the vaccines, serums, viruses and microbes, living or generated or dead, which are used in the diagnosis of, or research into, animal diseases, or the protection or treatment of animals.

“Animal accessories” means the saddles and bridles, currycombing tools, accessories and bedding, all the other tools associated with animals.

“Epidemic disease” means the infectious diseases and epidemiology classified in the two lists a, b, according to the rating of the International Bureau for epidemic animal disease control, as it may be amended

“Animal Consignment” means any animal or animal product or derivative or offal or similar arriving in, or originating from, or travelling across the country.

• Article 2

The import and export of all kinds of animals, their products and derivatives, offal feed, tools and biological preparations to and from Member States shall be subject to the provisions of this law.

• Article 3

The import or export of animals or their products, derivatives, waste or feed, as well as animal or biological preparations, shall be prohibited unless the necessary permit has been previously obtained from the competent veterinary authority.

An application for a permit shall include the following information:

- 1 - The number and type of animals, and the quantity and quality of products, derivatives, waste or animal feed, or animal biological preparations and samples.
- 2 - The importing or exporting State, and the country of origin.
- 3 - The means of transport used.
- 4 - The date appointed for shipment or arrival.

• Article 4

The competent veterinary authority shall safeguard in the quarantine locations, and for the period to be specified, the animal consignments and biological samples for inspection, and conduct the necessary tests before authorising them to enter or leave the state.

It shall be forbidden for animal consignments, biological samples of animal origin, or animal tools to enter or leave the state except through the following ports:

- 1- Doha Sea Port;
- 2- Doha International Airport;
- 3- Abou Samara land port;

The Minister shall be permitted to add other ports, in accordance with the public interest. The owners of the animal consignments shall inform the competent veterinary authority at least seventy-two hours before the date of arrival or exit from the country.

The Minister shall determine by resolution the fees to be paid in respect of services for depositing animal consignments, sheltering animals and their feed in veterinary quarantine, and procedures for collecting those fees.

• Article 5

It shall be necessary for the animal consignments arriving into the country, for the purposes of consumption, production or otherwise, to be accompanied by the following documents:

- 1 - Official veterinary health certificate certified as valid by the country of origin and showing the official stamps of the consignment, its origin, its testing immediately before shipping, and that it is free of epidemic and infectious diseases specified by the competent veterinary authority.
- 2 - A report from the ship's captain, or the pilot of the aeroplane, or the person responsible for the means of transportation used, on any death from, or outbreak of, sickness among the animals imported during the journey, and stating that they did not come into contact with any other animals infected with any of the

infectious or epidemic diseases, and that they did not stop off or pass through any zones affected by epidemic diseases during the journey.

3- A certificate of origin approved by the Embassy of the state, if any, or any of the Member States' Embassies.

4 - A certificate showing that any slaughter has been carried out in the Islamic manner, if the meat has been imported from outside of Muslim countries, and confirming the date of slaughter and the expiry date.

5 - A valid and evidenced certificate certifying that it is free of radioactive materials, issued by the exporting country if it is suspected of radioactive leakage.

The documents shall be presented to the appointee of the quarantine upon the arrival, and before the unloading, of the animal consignment.

The competent veterinary authority shall have the right to confiscate or execute, at the expense of the importer, any animal consignment appearing on examination to show any changes feared to cause damage to human or animal health.

• **Article 6**

The bringing of any animal into the country from any country outside of the Member States where there is any of the infectious diseases is prohibited; as is the bringing of any animal into the country which was exposed during its passage to any animals of a country where any infectious disease has been found

• **Article 7**

It is forbidden to bring any animal into the state from outside of the Member States, if it appears that, after inspection upon arrival at state ports or airports or at any point on the border, the animal is suffering from any epidemic disease.

The importer shall be charged with the return of the animal or animals infected to the authority from where it came, at his own personal expense, and in the case of animals which have died from infectious disease, they must be burned and buried in accordance with the appropriate health measures.

The Ministry shall immediately notify the GCC General-Secretary of the animal consignments rejected, for the communication of the same to the rest of the Member States.

• **Article 8**

The animals suspected of being infected with epidemic or contagious diseases shall be kept for observation in the quarantine area for a period not less than the incubation period of the disease, and for the conducting of the necessary tests to check for the disease, and treatment of it accordingly under the health conditions determined by the supervising veterinarian.

• **Article 9**

Where animals for slaughter or breeding are accompanied by the documents stipulated in Article 5 herein, and are not suspected of being infected with any epidemic or contagious disease, their owners may be permitted to transport them to the slaughterhouse or place of breeding, on the condition that the supervising veterinarian of the nearest veterinary centre to the place of isolation be notified of the arrival of these animals, for the undertaking of supervision for the period he may deem necessary.

• **Article 10**

Where the animals are imported from countries lacking any system of immunisation against certain diseases, it shall be necessary to vaccinate and immunise such animals, and then place them in quarantine for a period not less than the incubation period of the contagious or epidemic disease.

• **Article 11**

The competent authorities shall prevent any transport from entering the country in any way possible if it finds, based on a report from the competent veterinary authority, that such transport is or was carrying any animal, or animal products or extracts, infected by one of the infectious diseases, and that the means of transport, have not been sterilised in such a way as to ensure they are not carrying any disease which can be transmitted to humans or animals.

- **Article 12**

Where any means of transport arrives into the country and it appears after testing of its cargo of animals or animal products or extracts, that it contains or carrying anything which may cause harm to humans or animals, then the competent veterinary authority shall be permitted to order it to be sterilised in the way that it shall determine and at the expense of the importer. The competent veterinary authority may order the placing of the cargo in veterinary quarantine, for the adoption of whatever measures necessary in accordance with the provisions of this law.

- **Article 13**

The owner or importer of the animals shall undertake the transport of them at his own expense to the site of the veterinary quarantine determined by the Ministry, and shall provide sufficient feed and water for them during their presence in quarantine, according to the instructions of the supervising veterinarian, failing which, the Ministry may undertake the feeding of them at the owner's expense and with due regard to the animals' welfare.

- **Article 14**

Where there is no veterinary quarantine in the region, the supervising veterinarian shall undertake, as necessary, isolation of the animals in a separate place to prevent contact with other animals, and this place shall take on the status of veterinary quarantine in accordance with the provisions of this law.

- **Article 15**

The import or export of animals of the equine family to and from Member States shall be subject to the internationally applicable regulations and conditions.

- **Article 16**

It shall be permitted to bring semen used in artificial insemination, embryos and eggs for hatching, into the state, if accompanied by a certificate of origin, and a veterinary certificate certifying that the animal product is free of disease and of any genetic defects, on the condition that the necessary tests and measures be conducted.

- **Article 17**

The importer shall return the animal products referred to in the preceding Article, or execute them, at his own expense, under the supervision of the competent authority, if the tests show that any of these animal products is infected with any epidemic disease.

- **Article 18**

The Competent Veterinary Authority may confine any animal entering the country if it has a sickness, or is suspected of carrying an epidemic disease, and the regulatory quarantine procedure shall be applied. Animal products or extracts shall be sterilised if possible, or otherwise destroyed.

- **Article 19**

The provisions of this law shall apply in the case of importation of animals from one of the Member States, when there is a case of epidemic or infectious disease found in such country

- **Article 20**

Animal consignments intended for export shall be tested by a supervising veterinarian competent to issue veterinary certificates in accordance with the provisions of this law. the exporting person shall be given a veterinary health certificate confirming that the animals are free of infectious disease, and indicating the number, type of animals, the distinguished characteristics regarding the animals, or animal products or waste, to be exported and the export date and destination.

The competent veterinary authority may be permitted to undertake any measure which it deems necessary, by way of testing or health conditions or vaccinations necessary for the animals before the approval of their export.

- **Article 21**

All animal consignments passing through the State by road transit shall be subject to testing by the competent veterinary authority in accordance with the provisions of this law.

- **Article 22**

Animal feed consignments shall be accompanied by a veterinary health certificates issued by the exporting country, proving that they are free from all epidemic and infectious diseases, and toxins especially fungal toxins, and protein of animal origin, radioactive and carcinogenic materials, and forbidden substances such as shed blood and pork.

- **Article 22 BIS**

The health certificates referred to in this law shall be written in Arabic or English, or translated into one of them by certified translation attested by the embassy of the country of export, if any, or any of the Member States' embassies.

- **Article 23**

The fees to be paid for the services rendered by the Ministry or the competent veterinary authority shall be determined by a resolution of the Minister, as well as the procedures for the collection of the fees.

- **Article 24**

Without prejudice to any more serious penalty provided by any other law, any person who breaches the provisions of Articles 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21 and 22 of this law shall be punished with imprisonment for a period of up to three months, or a fine not exceeding ten thousand (10000) Riyals, or both.

In cases of recidivism, the maximum penalty shall be doubled. A person will be understood to have recidivated if he commits a similar offence within five years from the date of completing the sentence, or its lapse with passing of time

- **Article 25**

In all cases, it shall be permitted to order the confiscation of animals and animal products or materials subject of the crime, or their destruction, or their return at the expense of the sentenced party, and the closure of the place of business for a period not exceeding six months if the perpetrator acted for, or in the name of, or for the benefit of a corporation.

- **Article 26**

The employees of the Ministry, who have been appointed as law enforcement officers, by the resolution of the Public Prosecutor in agreement with the Minister, shall seize and investigate anything contravening the provisions of this law and the resolutions implementing thereof.

- **Article 27**

The Minister shall issue the resolutions necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this law. Until such resolutions are issued, without prejudice to the provisions of this law, the current bylaws, resolutions and regulation shall continue binding.

- **Article 28**

The provisions of Law number 1 of 1985, referred to, relating to veterinary quarantine is hereby repealed in so far as each contradicts the provisions of this law.

- **Article 29**

Every competent authority, each within its competence, shall implement the provisions of this law, which shall be published in the *Official Gazette*.