

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



19 July 2013

Yao Ching Hsieh
Director
Animal Quarantine Division,
Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine, Council of Agriculture, Executive
Yuan

Dear Director Hsieh

Thank you for your advice that Taiwan has notified the OIE of a reoccurrence of rabies. We understand that the first case was from May 2012 and since there have been another two detections, all of which have been in wild ferret badgers.

New Zealand is free of rabies and we regret that this notification will require MPI to immediately recategorise Taiwan as a country where dog-mediated rabies is absent or well-controlled (category 3). The outcome of this change is that dogs and cats will require vaccination against rabies and a subsequent rabies antibody titre test, as per the OIE code, prior to export to New Zealand.

The details of the requirements for countries where rabies is absent or well controlled (category 3) can be found in our guidance document on the following website:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/ihs/guidance-catdog.gen.pdf>

MPI has imported eleven animals from Taiwan over the past 6 months and will be seeking relevant history from the owners of those animals. MPI will be advising those owners of the very low risk of rabies in their pets. MPI is currently managing two recently imported animals which are still in quarantine and one which is preparing to leave Taiwan. The one preparing to leave Taiwan will be advised that the pet must now meet the requirements of a category 3 country and the issued permit to import (#2013049702) has been cancelled. MPI will obtain a history on the two animals in quarantine and they will be held until a risk assessment on them is complete.

MPI would like to request additional information regarding Taiwan's management and investigation of the outbreak thus far. This information will be important as we determine the risk associated with our recent imports. We wish you luck in the management of this outbreak.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Knox'.

Tim Knox
Director Market Assurance

Growing and Protecting New Zealand

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