

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
DEM/DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL HEALTH SECTION  
235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02879  
401-222-2781 Fax: 401-222-6047**

**2009 Animal Health Regulations: For Exhibition and Showing Only**

NOTE: The Rules and Regulations specified below are for Show and Exhibition ONLY!!  
The Rules and Regulations governing the interstate movement of animals and the health or care of animals within Rhode Island are paramount and may be different. Animals used for purposes other than show and exhibition, as defined below, may have other requirements or regulations. These regulations apply to all animals at fairs and shows, not just those entered in competition. (Animals on exhibition, in parades, circuses, pets accompanying owners, pony rides, rodeos etc.)

ENTRY PERMITS ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF ANIMALS ATTENDING FAIR, SHOW AND EXHIBITION. IMPORT PERMITS ARE REQUIRED FOR ANY ANIMALS ENTERING OR SOLD INTO RHODE ISLAND FOR PERMANENT OR EXTENDED RESIDENCE.

**1. RABIES**

**A. HORSES, SHEEP, CATTLE, DOGS, CATS, & FERRETS: Official Rabies Certificate showing rabies vaccination not less than 30 days nor more than one (1) year (cats and dogs up to 2 years) prior to entry, for animals three (3) months of age and older. Exception of the 30-day rule will apply to (3) month old animals recently vaccinated, provided they have had no exposure to potentially rabid animals.**

*B. Animals other than cattle, sheep and horses for which no USDA approved vaccine exists and which are used for public display, exhibition or show must be either:*

- 1) Be separated from the public by sufficient means so as to disallow direct animal/public contact or*
- 2) Identified as possible rabies carriers by conspicuously posted and readily legible signs stating: RHODE ISLAND RABIES CONTROL BOARD NOTICE – FEED AND TOUCH THESE ANIMALS AT YOUR OWN RISK.*
- 3) Facilities covered by these regulations shall include, but not be limited to, the following: petting zoos, zoos, nature centers, fairs, exhibitions, or education programs involving animals.*
- 4) **EXEMPTIONS:** Low rabies risk animals such as rodents, reptiles, birds and, in addition, those rabbits which can be documented as being born and raised indoors need not be isolated from direct physical contact with the public nor have posted any public notice of rabies risk.*

2. **All animals** entered at Fairs and Shows must be in proper physical condition and will be examined at the exhibition for visual evidence of infections or contagious diseases, to include, but not limited to:

CATTLE:           Foot-Rot, Mange, Pinkeye, Ringworm, Warts, Cowpox

SWINE:	Atrophic-Rhinitis, Mange
SHEEP/GOATS:	Foot Rot, Sore Mouth, Pinkeye, Ringworm, Scrapie-exposure
HORSES:	Mange, Ringworm, Soring, Vesicular Stomatitis, Strangles, Influenza, Rhinopneumonitis
POULTRY:	Infectious Bronchitis, Coryza, Pullorum, Fowl-pox, External parasites, Laryngotracheitis, Avian Influenza
RABBITS:	Snuffles, Skin and Ear Infections, Ringworm
DOGS:	Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Coronavirus, Mange, External Parasites, Diarrhea, Vomiting, Contagious upper respiratory infection.
CATS:	Upper Respiratory Infection, External Parasites, Diarrhea, Vomiting

3. **Evidence of any contagious or infectious disease** will result in an animal's rejection for entrance. Inspector's decision is final. All Health Certificates from out-of-state and all certificates or test charts on in-state animals must be signed by a licensed veterinarian validating the animals vaccinations, identification and, as required, that they are clinically free of infectious/contagious diseases and exposure to such disease.
4. **All required tests and vaccinations** must be in the name of the current owner, family or exhibitor and specifically state the location or property where the animals are regularly housed. Certificates and Test Reports will be available to inspectors at each exhibition. All out-of-state Health Certificates will be signed by the Chief Livestock Health Official from the state of origin.
5. **All out-of-state cattle, sheep, goats, horses, swine, cats, dogs and camelids** must be accompanied by a Health Certificate from the state of origin, dated no more than 30 days prior to entry to the first show of the season in Rhode Island. Thereafter, the Health Certificate is valid for the remainder of the season in Rhode Island. Prior permits are not required for show purposes or temporary importation.
6. **CATTLE:** All out of state cattle over 4 months age: (1) Must be negative to a tuberculosis test no more than 60 days prior to entry to the first show of the season in Rhode Island or from a herd certified TB free within 365 days. (2) Must be negative to a Brucellosis Blood Test not more than 30 days prior to the first show of the season, unless from a Negative Herd tested within 12 months, or, in case of breeding cattle, if officially vaccinated for Brucellosis and under 18 months of age. Steers, oxen, spayed heifers are exempt from brucellosis requirement. (3) All cattle originating from states or regions that are endemic for Bluetongue and Anaplasmosis must be tested negative for Bluetongue and Anaplasmosis within 30 days of entry into Rhode Island. Record of vaccination, TB tests and blood tests must be available. (4) In state origin cattle must be identified and vaccinated as below.  
**All cattle must be permanently identified** in compliance with all federal or state identification requirements in order to assure each animal is vaccinated and that all records are accurate. Owners are responsible for validating all identification.  
**RABIES PER (1A CATTLE)**
7. **GOATS:** All goats must (1) Have permanent identification and be in compliance with current federal and state interstate identification regulations. (2) Originate from a Tuberculosis free and Brucellosis free herds with the herd being validated within the previous twelve months. (3) Goats not originating from Tuberculosis free and Brucellosis free herds must meet the following requirements: (a.) All goats 4 months of age or older must be tested Tuberculosis negative within 60 days and Brucellosis negative within 30 days prior to the first show of the season. (b) All goats under 4 months of age must be

identified as progeny of a negative Tuberculosis and Brucellosis dam. (4) Any goats originating from states or regions that are endemic for Bluetongue or Anaplasmosis must be tested negative for Bluetongue and Anaplasmosis within 30 days of entry into Rhode Island (5) All goats enrolled in the Voluntary Scrapie Eradication Program must be kept separated from non-enrolled goats and sheep by a vacant pen, alleyway or solid physical barrier sufficient to prevent contact between the animals and their excretions. Contact within the ring and common areas will be limited and commingling not allowed. No goats will be allowed if they originate from or were part of a herd in which scrapie was diagnosed or which is under surveillance for scrapie unless prior approval from the State Veterinarian has been granted. Contact with kidding animals is prohibited. RABIES PER 1B

8. **SWINE:** All swine must be permanently identified. All out of state swine over 6 months of age must be from Brucellosis Free Validated Herd or Blood-Tested Negative within 30 days of entry. All swine must come from Pseudorabies-Free State or Herd, or be blood-tested negative within 30 days of the start of the show season. (Market swine exempt) No swine vaccinated for Pseudorabies will be allowed entry.  
RABIES PER 1B

9. **SHEEP:** All sheep must (1) be permanently identified and in compliance with current federal and state identification requirements. (2) All out of state sheep must be accompanied by a Health Certificate showing animals clinically free of scrapie or infectious diseases and exposure thereto. Out-of-state origin health certificates must be official health certificates from state of origin. (3) No sheep will be allowed from flocks in which Scrapie has been diagnosed or from flocks under current surveillance for Scrapie without prior approval. (4) Sheep from flocks in which Soremouth has been diagnosed or in which Soremouth vaccination has been conducted will not be allowed entry until 60 days has elapsed since the last clinical signs of Soremouth or Soremouth vaccination. (5) All sheep originating from states or regions that are endemic for Bluetongue must be tested negative for Bluetongue within 30 days of entry into Rhode Island. (6) Sheep enrolled in the Voluntary Scrape Eradication Program must be kept separate from non-enrolled sheep and goats by a vacant pen, alleyway, or solid physical barrier sufficient to prevent contact between the animals and their excretions. Contact within the ring and common areas will be limited and commingling not allowed. Contact with lambing animals is prohibited.  
RABIES PER 1A

10. **POULTRY:** (1) All Poultry will be individually inspected and must be properly identified or banded in compliance with federal and state programs. (2) All out of state poultry, and any applicable in state poultry, must be accompanied by written proof (NPIP ID Cards, Valid Testing Reports or Health Certificates) that the flock of origin, or individual bird, was blood tested negative for Pullorum-typhoid within 365 days or at the start of the fair season. Individual Avian Influenza testing is required within 30 days prior to first show. No poultry from states or areas under quarantine for disease will be allowed entry.

11. **CAMELIDS:** (llamas, alpacas, etc.) (1) All camelids must be permanently identified in compliance with all state and federal programs. Owners must provide verification of identification. (2) Out-of-state origin animals – Current Health Certificates, same as for out of state cattle animals, plus negative Bluetongue and Anaplasmosis testing within 30 days of entry into the state if originating from bluetongue and anaplasmosis endemic

regions. (3) In state origin camelids, see in state cattle requirements for identification and vaccinations.

RABIES PER 1B

12. **EQUINES:** All out of state equine (1) Must have a Health Certificate showing ownership and farm of origin, issued within 30 days prior to entry to the first event of the season. (2) Out of state animals must have official copy of Coggins testing within 12 months of the date of the event, per Rhode Island Importation Regulations. (3) Vaccination against Eastern Equine Encephalitis, West Nile Virus, Influenza, Rhinopneumonitis and Strangles is suggested but not required. (4) In State origin equine must be identified and provide proof of vaccinations.

RABIES PER 1A

13. **SMALL ANIMALS: All dogs, cats, and ferrets (1) must be accompanied by Official Proof of Rabies Vaccination, in compliance with Rhode Island State Laws. (2) Out of state animals must be have a Health Certificate issued within 30 days of the date of the event. (3) Vaccination against common diseases is recommended.**

**RABIES PER 1A**

14. **Special Notes:** (1) Tests listed shall be good for the entire show season, with the exception of Coggins (12 months), Bluetongue and Anaplasmosis (30 days). (2) Isolate all animals and poultry upon their return to the farm after any exhibitions and observe them for signs of disease as they may have been exposed to incubating or airborne diseases that were not evident at the time of exhibition. (3) Fairs may require more stringent health regulations prior to entry, but may not waive any of the above. (4) Any State, Local or Event Official may request at any time that testing be performed on any animal that is suspected of being diseased, falsely identified, or drugged and medicated, that testing being whatever deemed reasonably required to investigate the illness, drug abuse or problem.

**NOTE: Please Read the Entire Regulations for Complete Compliance.**

If you have any questions regarding these regulations, please call 401-222-2781.

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