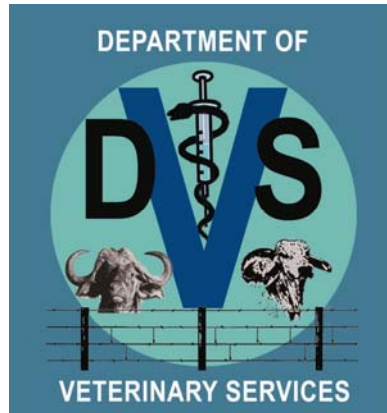


## Animals and Animal-Products Movement Control

IMPORTS - INTRANSIT - EXPORTS



# PERMITS

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## 1.0 **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The control of Imports/Exports/Intransit of animals and animal products in Botswana is governed by the Diseases of Animals Act CAP 37:01, Section 6 and other Diseases of Stock Regulations that may be promulgated from time to time. These powers are vested upon the Director of Veterinary Services (DVS). The Act and regulations are meant to prevent the introduction and spread of animal diseases in Botswana to ensure animal and human health.

## 2.0 **HOW TO APPLY FOR PERMITS**

### 2.1 **Imports of Live Animals**

All imports of live animals are centralised in headquarters in Gaborone. Any individual desirous of importing an animal into Botswana is required to lodge an application well in advance of the actual importation with the Permits Office, Ministry of Agriculture, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 113 (Tel: +267 3950753).

To enable processing of the permit, the following information is required from the importer:

- Full names and address of importer
- The proposed port of entry into the country
- The number of animals to be imported
- Breed
- Sex
- Full name and address of exporter
- The country from which the animals originate
- Province/District from which the animals originate
- Farm name and telephone numbers. (Where available)
- District/Crush of destination within Botswana.

With the exception of Dogs and Cats all live animals can only be brought into the country through six (6) designated border entry points. These are:

1. Martins-drift border post
2. Tlokweng border post
3. Pioneer border post
4. Ramatlabama border post
5. Mamuno border post

#### 2.1.1 *Special conditions/requirements affecting different animals*

##### i. **Cattle**

In addition to the requirements stipulated in section 2.1, certain documents are required to allow cattle entry into Botswana. These documents/requisites are needed and requested at the Border Inspection Point (BIP) for the purposes of bolus insertion. These, by different categories, as detailed in the table below:

CATEGORY	REQUIREMENTS
Botswana citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Omang Card or Copy</li> <li>○ Valid Brand Certificate</li> <li>○ Branding Iron</li> </ul>
Botswana citizens under 16 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Copy of Birth Certificate</li> <li>○ Valid Brand Certificate</li> <li>○ Branding Iron</li> </ul>
Non-Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Copy of Residence Permit</li> <li>○ Valid Brand Certificate</li> <li>○ Branding Iron</li> </ul>
Companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Copy of Company Registration Certificate</li> <li>○ Valid Brand Certificate</li> <li>○ Branding Iron</li> </ul>
Government Departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Valid Brand Certificate</li> <li>○ Branding Iron</li> </ul>

It is strongly encouraged that individuals without branding certificates apply for their own rather than use someone else's certificate. This will enhance implementation of the Livestock Identification and Traceability System (LITS). Processing of a Branding Certificate will only take less than 24hrs and can be done at the Ministry of Agriculture, Brands Office, Ground Floor, Room 23 (Tel: +267 3950404 / 665)

**ii. Sheep and Goats**

All conditions as stipulated in section 2.1 apply to the importation of sheep and goats.

**iii. Horses/Donkeys**

All conditions as stipulated in section 2.1 apply to the importation of horses.

**iv. Dogs and Cats**

A special dispensation/agreement exists for the importation/exportation of Dogs and Cats among several SADC member states. These countries include: Botswana/Lesotho/Namibia/Malawi/South Africa/Zimbabwe and Swaziland. Pursuant to this agreement an import permit is not required to bring a Dog/Cat into Botswana, the importer needs to only apply for an export certificate from the relevant member country.

For all other countries, an import permit needs to be obtained as per conditions in section 2.1.

**v. Live Poultry**

All conditions as stipulated in section 2.1 apply to the importation of poultry.

## vi. Wild Animals (including Caged Birds)

For the importation of wildlife, a wildlife import permit (or CITES permit) obtained from the Department of Wildlife and Tourism is a pre-requisite before a veterinary import permit can be issued. All conditions as stipulated in section 2.1 then apply.

### 2.2 Imports of Animal Products/Animal Feeds/Animal Medicines

Import permits for animal products can be issued from any veterinary district office where a state veterinary officer is available. To enable processing of the permit, the following information will be required from the importer:

- Full names and address of importer
- The proposed port of entry into the country
- The type of products to be imported
- Quantity of products to be imported
- Full name and address of exporter
- The country from which the products originate
- Company name and telephone numbers. (Where available)

### 2.3 Intransit Permits

Any person(s) wishing to transit through Botswana with live animals, animal products, animal feeds or animal medicines is required to obtain an intransit-permit from the permits office in headquarters, Gaborone. A pre-requisite for issuance of an intransit permit is an **import permit** from the country to which the consignments will be destined.

It must be noted that it is incumbent upon the transporters to ensure that they obtain *intransit permits from relevant countries* through which the goods will transit before the final destination.

### 2.4 Exports of Live Animals

All exports of live animals are centralised in headquarters in Gaborone. A pre-requisite to issuance of a veterinary export permit is an *import permit from the country to which the consignment originating from Botswana is destined*.

#### 2.4.1 Exports of Dogs and Cats

Pursuant to the agreement mentioned in section 2.1.1 (iv), an import permit is not required for exportation of Dogs and Cats to the listed SADC member countries. For all other countries condition 2.4 applies.

Before an export permit can be issued:

- i. The animal must be brought to state veterinarian for a visual inspection.
- ii. The animal must have a valid rabies certificate OR if the animal is under 3 months of age, its mother's valid rabies certificate.

***NB: For primary rabies vaccinations in animals over 3 months of age, the rabies certificate will only be valid 30 days after vaccination. For puppies travelling under their mother's certificate, the dam must have been vaccinated against rabies at least one (1) month but not more than twelve (12) months prior to parturition.***

## 2.5 Exports of Animal Products/Animal Feeds/Animal Medicines

A pre-requisite for exports of animal products, animal feeds and animal medicines is an import permit from the country to which the products are destined. Export permits for these products can be issued at the nearest district veterinary office where a state veterinary officer is available.

## 3.0 **WHAT TO CHECK FOR ONCE YOU HAVE YOUR IMPORT/EXPORT PERMIT**

Upon being issued with a permit the importer/exporter should check the following: -

- ✓ The names and addresses are correct
- ✓ The number/quantity of animals/products are correct and as requested
- ✓ The port of entry is as requested
- ✓ The expiry date on the permit
- ✓ Whether it is a single or multiple consignment permit
- ✓ That the permit has been signed and an official stamp

***NB: It is important that the importer/exporter reads all the conditions on the permit and requests for any clarifications before leaving the permits office.***

## 4.0 **NOTICE TO IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS**

All importers/exporters must note that:

- i. Only an **original permit** may accompany the consignment. Faxes or photocopies are not acceptable.
- ii. Applications for permits must be lodged and collected well in time, as often there will be conditions on the permits that should be fulfilled by certifying officers. These conditions may include special tests on animals, quarantine of the animals, inspection of animals and/or premises.
- iii. In some cases imports/exports protocols have to be established between concerned countries before import/export permits can be issued. This is often an involved process that may require a long time.