



Ref: CTO 2018 042 [1]

Dogs from Australia: External parasite treatments and *Babesia gibsoni* testing

CTO direction as to equivalent measures in relation to external parasite treatments and *Babesia gibsoni* testing

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Vicki Melville, Manager, Animal Trade, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for police dogs, Ruger (m/c # 981 000 300 508 044) and Kira (m/c # 982 000 153 753 059) from Australia to be given clearance in accordance with the following measures, different from those in the applicable *Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs (CATDOG.GEN)*.

Equivalence is given to the IHS, clause 2.3 (1) External parasites:

1. The cat or dog was treated by a veterinarian twice with a topical product registered for the control of ticks and fleas at the manufacturer's recommended dose and certified as free from external parasites at each treatment:
 - a) The first treatment was given in the 30 days prior to the date of shipment and at least two weeks before the second treatment.
 - b) The second treatment was given in the two days prior to the date of shipment; and

The first external parasite treatment given to the dogs is not registered for the control of ticks. Due to the scheduled date of shipment, two treatments effective against fleas and ticks will be given 7 days (instead of two weeks) apart.

Although, the blood sample for *Babesia gibsoni* was taken before effective tick treatment was given, the risk of the dogs transmitting *Babesia gibsoni* via an infected tick to a New Zealand dog is considered low. Given that the dogs will be examined and certified as free from external parasites prior to or at each treatment, and inspected and found to be free of external parasites post arrival and prior to clearance being given, it would be unlikely that:

1. Ticks will be present on the dogs upon arrival that will have fed or feed from the dogs; and
2. A New Zealand cattle tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*) would attach to the dogs as these ticks are not found in the Wellington region. The dogs will remain in Wellington for a short period of seven days prior to their return to Australia.

If external parasites are found on post-arrival inspection, the dogs will be directed to a transitional facility as per the tick/flea find procedure.

This direction takes effect from the date of signing and continues in effect until amended or revoked.