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David Renshaw

Hi All

Lou Dall'est and myself sat in on a webinar call on the 31st August 2020 which discussed the Draft report on biosecurity risks associated with the importation of Psittacine birds (household pet & Aviary birds) into Australia and how to manage those risks. The webinar went for one hour. The presentation opened by discussing a brief history of the original importations back in 1989 of some 5000 birds .

The future:

One of the important things that was discussed is the improvement in technology in relation to the testing of viruses etc, this new technology will now enabled the review and implementation of future importations into Australia in late 2021.

It was explained that the birds are broken into two groups : Household Pets & Aviary Birds.

Household Pets : These birds are normally kept inside the owners premises and not exposed to the diseases of wild bird's. Their quarantine period time is shorter in both the sending country and Australia, it is also more economical to import the birds . They are also held in a separate area in the quarantine station at Mickleham in Vic.

Aviary Birds:

At this point in time only one country meets the biosecurity conditions as a sending country that is England this may change in future when other countries are able to meet the Biosecurity conditions.

All importations must meet the conditions set out in the import permits.

Aviary birds must be held in quarantine for thirty five days in both the sending and receiving Country.

Birds undergo virus testing at all stages.

All birds must be held in the quarantine station in Mickleham Vic.

They can hold approx 40 Macaw size birds or 500 budgies at one time .

Import List of birds is controlled by a different department and the list they are currently using is of the species of birds that were previously imported, work is being done on trying to review this list to include additional species of birds.

A lot of time was spent on answering questions especially regarding Household pets.

Importing process : it is interesting to note that Zoos and sanctuaries will not have propriety. Propriety will be given to the first people/ group to lodge an import permit that meets all the conditions of the import permit.

The full transcript is available on the departments web site. Questions and feedback close on the 19th September 2020.

Renewal of Victorian Wildlife licences: Due at the end of September 2020. 12 mths licence.

I have spoken to the Wildlife department and they have assured me that the renewals are currently being sent out but could be held up due to delays in Australia Post. Just keep an eye out for your renewal.

Thanks

Stay Safe

Best Regards

David Renshaw
Secretary
VAC