

1972/214



**THE HAMSTER IMPORTATION AND CONTROL
REGULATIONS 1972**

—
DENIS BLUNDELL, Governor-General

ORDER IN COUNCIL

At the Government House at Wellington this 2nd day of October 1972

Present:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL

PURSUANT to the Animals Act 1967, His Excellency the Governor-General, acting by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, hereby makes the following regulations.

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REGULATIONS

1. Title and commencement—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Hamster Importation and Control Regulations 1972.

(2) These regulations shall come into force on the day after the date of their notification in the *Gazette*.

2. Interpretation—In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

“Approved” means approved by the Minister of Agriculture or persons authorised by him:

“Hamster” means the animal scientifically known as *Mesocricetus auratus* (spp.).

3. Permits for importation of hamsters—Subject to the provisions of the Act and to these regulations, the Minister of Agriculture may issue a permit for the importation of hamsters for the purposes of approved experiments, research, and testing by—

- (a) Laboratories under the control of the Animal Health and Research Divisions of the Department of Agriculture:
- (b) Laboratories under the control of the Health Department:
- (c) Such vaccine manufacturers as may be approved from time to time.

4. Conditions in respect of issue of permits—No permit shall be issued pursuant to regulation 3 of these regulations, unless—

- (a) The purpose of the importation is approved:
- (b) The country of origin and source of supply within that country are approved:

- (c) The hamsters to be imported will come from an approved breeding colony and have been kept there since birth:
- (d) The hamsters have not been used for any disease transmission testing or research work:
- (e) Carriage of the hamsters will be by air transportation to New Zealand:
- (f) The hamsters are quarantined for the period, if any, and under the conditions specified in the permit.

5. Health certification—Notwithstanding the issue of a permit pursuant to these regulations, no hamster shall be permitted to land in New Zealand unless it is accompanied by—

- (a) A declaration by the exporter or shipper stating the country and source of supply, that the animal was born and has been bred in captivity, and that to the best of his knowledge and belief the animal is free from infectious and contagious disease and has not been in contact with any other animal so affected:
- (b) A certificate by a veterinarian employed full time by the Government or State of the country of origin certifying that he has examined the animal, that it is free from any symptoms of infectious or contagious disease, and that to the best of his knowledge and belief the animal has not had contact with any infectious or contagious disease agent.

6. Landing inspection and transportation within New Zealand—

(1) On arrival in New Zealand of any hamster, a veterinarian in the employ of the Department of Agriculture shall examine the hamster and if he is satisfied that the hamster is healthy and free from symptoms of any infectious or contagious disease, and the health certificates are in order, he may permit the hamster to land.

(2) No person shall transport any hamster within New Zealand otherwise than in such manner and in such a container as may be authorised by the Chief Veterinary Officer.

7. Breeding of hamster colonies—No person shall breed hamsters in New Zealand, whether from hamsters imported into New Zealand or otherwise, without the approval of the Chief Veterinary Officer, given subject to regulation 8 of these regulations.

8. Requirements of premises and research and other facilities—

(1) The Chief Veterinary Officer shall not approve the establishment of a hamster breeding colony unless he is satisfied that:

- (a) The premises in which a colony is to be bred and maintained is so constructed that there is no risk of a hamster escaping:
- (b) The premises are so constructed and managed as to ensure the welfare of the animals:
- (c) The colony is under regular veterinary inspection to ensure that the colony remains free from any disease affecting animals for the time being specified in the First Schedule or the Second Schedule to the Act and from any other abnormal or unhealthy condition:

- (d) A specific officer or employee of the establishment is made responsible at all times for the management and security of the colony:
 - (e) The facilities and methods of handling hamsters in any research or experiment are such that there is no risk of a hamster escaping.
- (2) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of these regulations, if any hamster should at any time escape, the officer or employee responsible shall immediately notify the Chief Veterinary Officer.

9. Transfer of hamsters—No person shall transfer or remove any hamster from any approved premises or from any place where it is for the time being lawfully kept without the written permission of the Chief Veterinary Officer.

10. Offences—Every person commits an offence against these regulations who—

- (a) Imports or attempts to import any hamster into New Zealand without a permit issued under these regulations; or
- (b) Sells or attempt to sell or in any other way disposes of any hamster without the written permission of the Chief Veterinary Officer; or
- (c) Transports, transfers, or removes any hamster from any premises or place in contravention of regulation 6 (2) or regulation 9 hereof.

P. J. BROOKS,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This note is not part of the regulations, but is intended to indicate their general effect.

These regulations govern the importation and keeping of hamsters for the purposes of approved experiments, research, and testing.

Issued under the authority of the Regulations Act 1936.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 5 October 1972.

These regulations are administered in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.