



Ref: CTO 2019 017 [1]

Dog: *Babesia gibsoni* and *canis* PCR tests

CTO direction as to equivalent measures in relation to the timeframe between PCR tests for *Babesia gibsoni* and *canis*

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Lucy Johnston, Manager Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for a dog 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 following clauses in the *Babesia canis* and *Babesia gibsoni* section of the IHS:

2.4 (4) and 2.5 (3): *The dog has been subjected to PCR tests for Babesia spp. or Babesia canis and gibsoni with negative results on samples collected 30-37 days apart, with the second sample collected in the 16 days prior to the date of shipment.*

The second blood sample from this dog was not sent to a laboratory for testing. A third blood sample was taken but the timeframe between the first and third blood sample will be 42 days instead of 30 to 37 days.

There does not appear to be any scientific justification for the upper limit of the timeframe i.e. 37 days, other than a repeat PCR performed approximately one month after the initial test, increases the chance of the PCR test picking up the presence of the *Babesia* organism in chronically-infected dogs.

The extension from 37 to 42 between tests is not considered to significantly increase the risk of *Babesia canis* or *B. gibsoni* entering New Zealand.

The reason for directing clearance is that the biosecurity risks associated with this CTO direction have been assessed and are managed effectively.

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