



Ref: CTO 2015 001 [1]

Zoo: Otters Heartworm Testing

CTO direction to biosecurity inspectors for the clearance of zoo oriental small clawed otters

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Vicki Melville, Manager Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for zoo oriental small clawed otters to be given clearance in accordance with the following measures, different from those in the applicable import health standard for zoo oriental small clawed otters from Australia into New Zealand (zoootic.aus):

Clause 6.4 of the veterinary certificate requires the otters to be tested for heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) using a microfilariae concentration test and two antigen tests 21 days apart while in pre export isolation (PEI).

This CTO direction will allow for the otter specified on the permit to import to have had the first antigen ELISA test done prior to the start of PEI. All tests must be negative.

This decision is based on the fact that two subcutaneous injections of ivermectin at a dose rate of 0.4 mg/kg at an interval of 10 to 14 days are required by the import health standard (clause 6.3 (i)). Ivermectin kills the developing larval worms and clears the circulating microfilariae, thus if infection had occurred after testing this would be cleared by the ivermectin treatment.

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