St Helena Government

Biosecurity St Helena

Preventative Measures To Reduce the Risk of Foot and Mouth Disease Entering St Helena

Advice for travellers to St Helena

South Africa is currently dealing with an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), a serious illness that affect cattle, sheep, goats and pigs and other cloven-hoofed animals. We are fortunate that St Helena is free from this disease, and protecting the island's livestock and farming is very important.

When travelling to St Helena, please follow the simple precautions in this leaflet to help prevent FMD from entering the island.

Prior to Arrival

1. We recommend that you avoid visiting livestock farms or other places where livestock of wildlife are kept.
2. Shower prior to travel paying particular attention to fingernails and hair.
3. If you have visited a farm, wildlife area or zoo while abroad, make sure that the clothing and footwear you wore during your visit are free from soil or manure. Clean and disinfect your footwear thoroughly. Clothing should be washed with detergent at 60^0C minimum or professional dry-cleaning is recommended.
4. All hiking gear should be cleaned and ensure that all organic material is removed, before being disinfected using a product effective against the FMD virus.
5. Clean any jewellery, watches, phone etc. with disinfectant wipes if they were brought onto farms.
6. It is prohibited to import the following products into St Helena of cloven hoofed animals (including pigs, cattle, sheep and goats, deer etc.) originating from, produced in or repacked in South Africa:
    - Animal germplasm (semen, embryos etc.);
    - Meat and meat products that have not been treated to a minimum temperature of 80^0C throughout the meat product (for example, biltong);
    - Dairy products that have not been processed using an ultra-high temperature (UHT) treatment at not less than 135^0C.

Upon Arrival

1. Footwear of all passengers will be sprayed at the Airport before you proceed to Immigration and Customs with a disinfectant. If your footwear is found to be dirty (it contains soil etc) your footwear will be cleaned by a Biosecurity Officer before you enter the arrival building for Immigration and Customs requirements.
2. Declare any meat and dairy products or other animal products (germplasm, hides, skins etc) to a Customs or Biosecurity Officer to ensure that you are complying with St Helena's requirements and the risk of importing inadmissible products are minimised.

3. If you have been on a farm, at a wildlife area or a zoo, avoid all contact with livestock for at least 7 days after arrival.
4. Ensure that clothes brought with you have been thoroughly washed or professionally dry-cleaned. Footwear should be cleaned and disinfected using a product effective against FMD virus.

Failing to Declare Prohibited Products in Your Possession

If prohibited items are not declared and found in your possession, such items will be seized by Customs Officers and enforcement actions can be imposed which range from fines to prosecution in court. False declarations to Customs Officers are also punishable by law.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping St Helena free from FMD and enjoy you stay on the island.

Contact Us:

For further information please contact the following persons; the Biosecurity Officer, Julie Balchin, on email julie.balchin@sainthelena.gov.sh or the Senior Veterinary Officer, Andrew Cant, on email andrew.cant@sainthelena.gov.sh. Both officers can be contacted on telephone +290 24724.

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