

IMPORTING ANIMALS INTO CANADA

Canadian animals are considered amongst the healthiest in the world and can therefore be exported anywhere. Authorities of the federal Agriculture Department's Health of Animals Branch intend, through the enforcement of import regulations and the adaptation of these regulations to conditions in other countries, to see that they stay that way.

Three basic points are considered by Canadian animal-health authorities before issuing permits to bring animals into the country: (1) species; (2) diseases in countries of origin; (3) whether importations meet Canadian animal-health laws. No animal can be imported into Canada unless its health status is equivalent to that of Canadian animals.

Dogs moving from Canada to the United States or the other way require rabies vaccination by a veterinarian. Going to the United States, however, they must have the shots 30 days before crossing the border, whereas, on their return, a veterinarian certificate of rabies inoculation will suffice.

Cats, most birds, and even a pet alligator or snake can go through customs without difficulty. With the exception of pigs, the movement of animals between Canada and the United States is generally quite free. Swine, however, coming from the U.S. into Canada undergo 30 days of quarantine.

One reason for the fairly free movement of animals between the U.S. and Canada is that the disease situation is much the same in both coun-



Anxiously awaiting the end of a three-month quarantine period.

tries, but the story changes when animals are imported from other countries. Dogs coming from European countries where rabies exists, spend three months in quarantine. Those from countries free of rabies require only a health certificate from a government veterinarian. Horses need a permit but move freely from most countries unless there is a specific disease problem.

Regulations concerning the importation of cattle, sheep and swine, all susceptible to foot-and-mouth disease, are particularly severe, even from approved countries, and animals undergo exhaustive veterinary examinations and lengthy quarantines both in the country of origin and in Canada.

UNUSUAL REGULATIONS

Among Canada's animal import regulations is one that prohibits cattle entering by air. The reason is that the extra time required for surface travel allows for a longer incubation period if a disease is developing. Zoological specimens such as felines — lions, cats and others — move freely under permits. However, once in Canada they must remain under observation on the zoo premises for a set period of time. There are no restrictions on reptiles.

Other curious regulations concern importers of bird-life: only two birds in the parrot group from any country — cockatoos, lovebirds, and parakeets — can be imported into Canada at any one time because they carry a type of pneumonia transmittable to man.

Through membership in the Office international des Epizooties, animal-health officials of the Canadian Agriculture Department are kept constantly aware of disease problems in other countries.



A cow from a country where foot-and-mouth disease exists is unloaded at the Canada Department of Agriculture quarantine station at Lévis Quebec.