

TICK INTERCEPTION PROTOCOL

REPTILES IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(effective April 3, 2013)

To prevent the introduction of Heartwater (a deadly African disease of livestock vectored by certain species of ticks, principally *Amblyomma spp.*) and to reduce the entry of exotic invasive ticks that may be introduced into the United States, the following protocols should be followed by those exporting reptiles from other countries and those importing reptiles into United States.

Exporter Protocol

1. Every reptile specimen should be inspected for the presence of ticks and other ecto-parasites prior to export. Particular attention should be paid to inspecting the nasal cavity and soft tissues around legs. Reptiles found to be infested with ticks and other reptiles in direct contact with infested reptiles to be exported should be treated in accordance with the treatment protocol as specified under item 3 below.

2. The following reptile species must be visually inspected **and** treated (see treatment protocol below):

- all Varanid lizards from Africa
 - Captive-hatched Savannah monitors (*Varanus exanthematicus*) must be visually inspected but do not have to be treated if they are free of ectoparasites and the captive facility has been free of ticks for the previous 30 days.
- wild-caught ball pythons (*Python regius*)
 - Captive-hatched ball pythons must be visually inspected but do not have to be treated if they are free of ectoparasites and the captive facility has been free of ticks for the previous 30 days.
- all tortoises from Africa and South America
- all Boidae from Guyana
- Boa constrictors from Colombia

3. Treatment protocols for reptile species listed above in (2.)

- All reptile species (except tortoises) should be treated with an effective acaricide:
 - 10% permethrin solution diluted to reach a 0.35% solution = 13 cc of permethrin-10 in one U.S. gallon of clean water.
 - The diluted permethrin solution should be thoroughly sprayed on the animals.
 - All reptiles should be well hydrated with clean water; animals should be allowed to dry prior to acaricide spray.
- Tortoises may be treated with diluted permethrin solution **or** as an alternative, vegetable oil can be applied to all soft tissue on and around the legs.
 - Any ticks should be killed by the vegetable oil within 2-3 days.
 - All dead ticks must be manually removed.

4. After visual inspection and/or treatment, a Supplemental Declaration (see below) must be executed and signed by either:

- (a) the appropriate authority from the country of export; or
- (b) by a veterinarian licensed in the country of export.

5. Exporters are strongly encouraged to isolate tick-prone species in their own shipping containers to avoid cross-contamination. Containers should be able to contain immature ticks.

SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION
for Reptiles exported to the United States of America

Exporter Name and Address

Importer Name and Address

Bill of Lading _____

Date of Export (DD/MM/YYYY) _____

The animals listed below have been examined and found to be free of:

- 1) any apparent signs of infectious or communicable diseases AND
- 2) any macroscopic ectoparasites

Scientific Name	Common Name	Quantity	Treated (Y/N)
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(Use additional pages as necessary)

Animals indicated as "Treated" received an application of _____ on _____.
(acaricide) (date)

All animals listed have been either: (1) held in; (2) collected from; or (3) born in an area free of ticks , or where there is no reasonable chance of tick transmission for 30 days prior to export.

Exporter Signature

Name and Address of Government Authority
or Attending Licensed Veterinarian

**Signature of Government Authority
or Attending Veterinarian**

Official Government Stamp or Vet License #

Importer Protocol

1. Protocols apply to all specimens of the following reptile species:
 - all Varanid lizards from Africa
 - wild-caught ball pythons (*Python regius*); captive-hatched ball pythons are excluded provided the captive facility has been free of ticks for 30 days
 - all tortoises from Africa and South America
 - all Boidae from Guyana
 - Boa constrictors from Colombia

2. All staff handling imported reptiles should be well trained on ecto-parasite identification and treatment protocols.

3. Reptiles should be placed in an isolated part of the facility and visually inspected for external parasites at the time of unpacking **and** re-checked upon shipping out. The use of lighted magnifying glasses or head mask (see pictorial below) is recommended to expedite this process.

4. Upon discovery of any ticks:
 - All animals in a shipment where any ticks are found should be treated as if they have ticks to prevent any ticks or their eggs from infecting any other areas of the facility or other animals.
 - All reptiles within the shipment must remain in an isolated section of facility for treatment and remain there until rendered parasite-free.
 - Any detected ticks should be treated immediately with an effective acaricide, e.g., a permethrin-based spray applied according to the product label.
 - All reptiles should be well hydrated with clean water; animals should be allowed to dry prior to acaricide spray.
 - In lieu of permethrin spray, tortoises may be treated with a manual application of vegetable oil.
 - any ticks should be killed by the vegetable oil within 2-3 days
 - all dead ticks must be manually removed
 - Any ticks found on imported animals should be reported within 24 hours to the U.S.D.A. Veterinary Services Area Office or to the State Veterinarian's office.
 - Unidentified ticks should be preserved in 70% ethanol when they are removed from the reptile.
 - Note the reptile species infested, the country of origin, the location (import facility) and date the tick/ecto-parasite was collected.
 - All ticks (identified or not) should be reported and digital photographs taken.
 - U.S.D.A. will provide pre-paid shipping containers, tubes, alcohol and labels. Tick samples should be shipped to the appropriate state laboratory listed on the labels.

Link for U.S.D.A. Veterinary Services Area Offices:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/downloads/vsavic.pdf

Link for State Veterinarian:

<http://www.usaha.org/Portals/6/StateAnimalHealthOfficials.pdf>

- The exporter should be immediately contacted and all shipments in transit from the exporter should be identified, isolated and inspected.
- All shipping containers and packing materials with tick-infested reptiles should be destroyed using the procedures below.

5. Treatment and/or disposal of shipping boxes from countries of concern:

Africa: **All** African Countries

South America: Colombia, Suriname, Guyana

- Immediately after unpacking the animals, all import boxes **and** packing materials (bags, paper, etc.) should be placed in a container for treatment.
 - For materials to be disposed, boxes should be broken down and thoroughly spray-treated with a Permethrin acaricide (e.g., Permethrin SFR 36.8%) or similar product according to label directions.
 - All packing materials should be treated with Permethrin acaricide and disposed.
 - Boxes and packing materials should be sealed in a black plastic garbage bag or sealed with pallet wrap (pictorial below) for 24 hrs before disposing of properly.
- All shipping boxes to be re-used should be treated with an acaricide at a safe and effective dose; a visual check should be done after acaricide treatment to ensure boxes are parasite-free; no packing materials can be re-used.

DISPOSAL OF SHIPPING BOXES AND MATERIALS



1) Box placed in plastic tub



2) Box is broken down



3) Pieces sprayed with Permethrin product



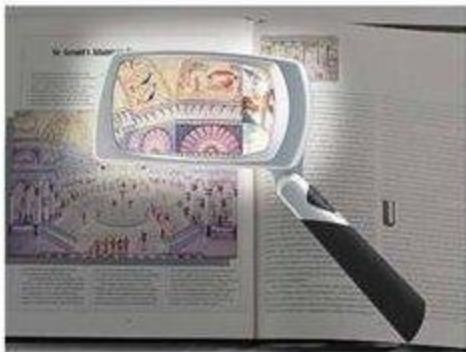
4) Surrounding area sprayed



5) Cover with plastic wrap



6) Seal completely and leave in sun 1 day



magnifying lights and lighted headgear for tick inspection



Permethrin SFR 36.8% for treatment of shipping materials

http://www.domyownpestcontrol.com/msds/permethrin_sfr_label.pdf

