

Pests & Biosecurity on the Chatham Islands



BRINGING PETS AND LIVESTOCK TO THE CHATHAMS?



What you need to know ...

The Chatham Islands environment is unique and the economy depends on farming and fishing. Luckily the Chathams are free of many diseases which cause economic and environmental losses on mainland New Zealand. We have a responsibility to continue to protect wildlife and livestock present on these Islands.

The importance of biosecurity

Whenever an animal is brought onto the islands there is a risk of disease being introduced. Fortunately there are things that you can do before and after shipping to reduce the chances of this happening. As a first step any farm equipment brought in from mainland NZ must be carefully cleaned of soil and animal effluent, as these contaminants can act as a source of disease agents.

Official requirements and TB control

Always ensure that official requirements for the movement of animals are met. Animal Status Declaration (ASD) forms must be completed for all cattle and deer movements under the National Animal Identification & Tracing (NAIT) framework. The forms include important information on tuberculosis as part of the national TBfree New Zealand programme. If you have concerns about the TB status of the animals you are buying or bringing onto your property for grazing, call the free information line on 0800 482 4636.



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ANIMAL DISEASE AND RISK PREVENTION

Species	Concern	Possible consequences	Risk prevention steps
All species (and farm equipment)	General health	Introduction of disease agents and parasites.	Ensure the health status of livestock is high and livestock are in good body condition prior to shipping. Buy livestock from a trusted operator. Farm equipment should be cleaned prior to shipping.
Cattle, sheep and goats	Internal parasites	Introduction of parasites resistant to drench.	Hold imported livestock in quarantine (isolation paddocks well away from other livestock) for 24 hours.
	External parasites	Introduction of ticks, lice and agents vectored e.g. Theileria in cattle.	Cattle and sheep should be routinely given an appropriate quarantine drench for internal parasites. After consulting your veterinarian take care to use a product that is effective for parasites on the farm where the animals were moved from. For cattle imported from the North Island use a pour-on treatment for external parasites prior to arrival. Make sure to adhere to the producer's dosage recommendations. If parasite treatment has not been carried out pre-import, whilst not ideal, it can be done on arrival. On release from the isolation paddock, monitor new stock in separate paddocks for ten days prior to mixing with other livestock.
Pigs	Viral and bacterial diseases	Cattle disease e.g. Johnes disease, Bovine viral diarrhoea, Bovine Tb. Sheep disease e.g. Johnes disease, Ovine epididymitis (Brucella ovis).	Check previous farm and test history for diseases and ensure there is no evidence of those diseases listed and that animals have tested free of Tb. For breeding rams ensure that animals are purchased from a breeder accredited free of Brucella ovis.
	Viral and bacterial diseases, parasites	Variety of diseases e.g. Post weaning multi-systemic wasting syndrome, Internal and external parasites.	Conduct veterinary inspection prior to shipment. Quarantine and monitor health following import. Carry out parasite treatment
Horses	Viral and bacterial diseases, parasites	For example disease from Strangles, or equine herpes virus.	Veterinary inspection prior to shipment to ensure no evidence of abscesses of the head and neck or signs of respiratory disease. Hold new horses in quarantine for ten days prior to mixing with other horses.
Dogs and cats	Viral and bacterial diseases, parasites	Dog diseases e.g. Parvovirus, Distemper, Infectious canine hepatitis. Cat diseases e.g. Feline enteritis and forms of feline respiratory disease.	Veterinary inspection, vaccination and treatment for internal (containing praziquantel for treatment of tapeworm) and external parasites prior to shipment. Please ensure all vaccinations are up to date.
Poultry and caged birds, including exotic species	Viral and bacterial diseases, parasites	Respiratory or enteric conditions e.g. caused by Paramyxoviruses or Herpesvirus; Beak and feather disease which can endanger native parrots.	Ensure high health in birds from the farm of origin and no evidence of respiratory disease or a previous drop in egg production for poultry. Hold imported birds in quarantine for ten days prior to mixing with other birds. Never release captive parrots or other exotic species into the wild.
Bees	Viral and bacterial diseases, parasites	In particular infestation with Varroa bee mite and American foulbrood.	Do not bring in queens or new bees from mainland NZ under any circumstances. Bee boxes and hive components should be purchased new to avoid contamination. Replacement queens can be sourced from local bee keepers.

