

Member experience on Implementing Border inspection and Animal quarantine Hong Kong SAR

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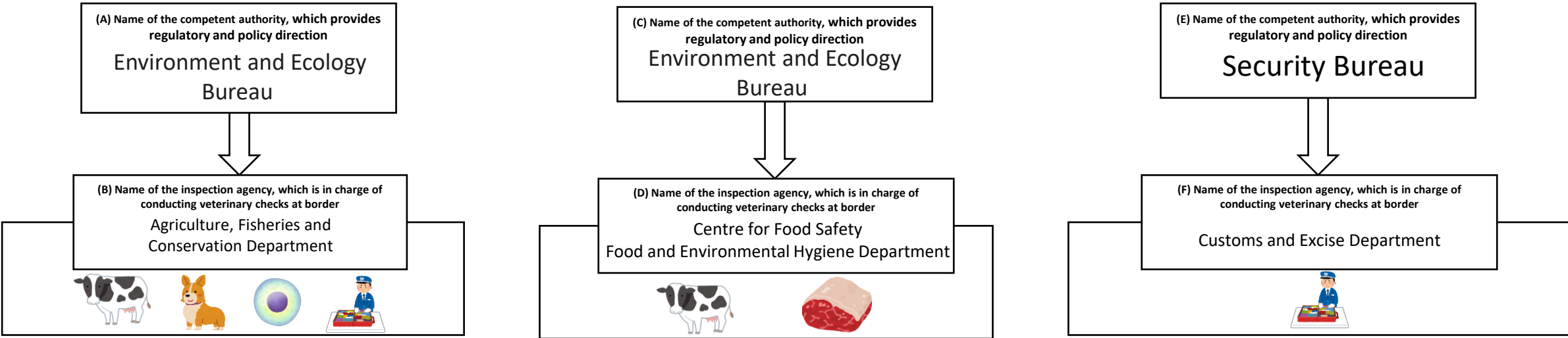
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


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Chiba, Japan

Organisational Structure for Veterinary Inspection at the Border Post



	Commodity	Document Check	Quarantine Isolation	Clinical Examination	Serological Test	Pathogen Detection (e.g. PCR)	Other Tests (e.g. visual, chemical)	Responsible Authority
	Livestock (e.g. cattle, pigs)	Yes	Yes	Yes (Visual)	Yes	No	No	B, D
	Companion animals (e.g. dogs, cats)	Yes	Yes	Yes (Visual)	Yes	Yes	No	B
	Products of animal origin (e.g. meat, eggs)	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	No	Yes	B, D
	Animal generic materials (e.g. semen, embryo)	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	No	No	B
	Aquatic	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	D
	Passenger luggage	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	No	B, F

Current Situation and Key Issues



- Top 3 Animals with the highest import volume
 1. Poultry (Day-old chicks)
 2. Livestock (pigs, cattle and goats) for direct slaughter
 3. Reptiles
- Top 3 Animal Products with the highest import volume
 1. Frozen poultry
 2. Frozen pork
 3. Aquatic products

Good Practices in Border Inspection and Quarantine

- Please describe effective practices and experiences in implementing border inspection and quarantine measures.
- Successful approaches or innovations
 - Pre-arrival documentary check service for pet animals
 - Mandatory advance booking of border inspection
- Lessons learned from past experiences
 - Improved compliance of import requirements at time of entry
 - Improved efficiency in quarantine clearance
 - Less detention and repatriation cases
 - Better arrangement of manpower



Good Practices in Border Inspection and Quarantine

- Replicable models for other countries/territories
 - Quarantine detector dog programme
 - Official escort of pet animals for transit
 - Public education: advertisement on cross-border transportation, school talks etc.



Challenges and risks identified

- Please describe key challenges impacting border inspection and animal quarantine (**Except for funding limitations**)
 - Limited quarantine facilities and longer period of quarantine (e.g. not less than 120 days for cats and dogs from Group III places before Dec 2024)

Improvement:

- Quarantine arrangement has recently been updated → addition of Group IIIA with 30 days of quarantine, significantly reduce cost to owner, stress due to waiting time for quarantine facilities and increase the turnover time (still 120 days quarantine for Group IIIB)
- New quarantine facilities at the Kowloon Animal Management Centre under the AFCD have been put into service in May 2025. The quarantine facilities provided for cats and dogs have increased from 21 and 20 to 34 and 30 respectively
- Privately-owned licensed quarantine centre operated by Hong Kong Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) opened in June 2025 to further increase capacity (for cats)



Challenges and risks identified (2)

- Risk of transboundary animal diseases
 - Most concerned: introduction of Rabies into Hong Kong as Hong Kong is Rabies-free
 - Limited risk for large animal disease as Hong Kong has a very small farming industry and no known illegal import of production animals cross the border
- Informal/illegal movement
 - Smuggling of live animals by sea or land route into Hong Kong– usually pedigree dogs and cats
 - Carrying of animal products via cross-land borders



Collaboration with other agencies

- Please describe collaboration between animal quarantine and other relevant agencies for effective border control.

- Purpose of Collaboration

To strengthen border biosecurity through coordinated joint-operations and information sharing, and potential training opportunity

- Key Partners

- 1) Customs and Excise Department (C&ED)
- 2) Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF)
- 3) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD)
- 4) Others: Mainland authorities (General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China , laboratories)

Collaboration with other agencies (2)

- Examples of Joint Activities
 - Joint anti-smuggling operations at the Hong Kong Airport and major import/export land boundary control points with Customs and Police
 - Joint press conference to raise public awareness
 - Liaise with Mainland authorities to exchange intelligence and conduct joint operations for combating smuggling of dogs and cats
 - Intelligence exchange and co-operation with overseas law enforcement counterparts and conduct targeted investigation and joint enforcement actions to combat smuggling activities
- Benefits
 - Improved efficiency, enhanced detection of illegal imports, and better disease prevention.



Thank you



Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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World Organisation
for Animal Health

中华人民共和国农业农村部

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China

