

FIVE-YEAR PLAN
October 10, 2001

Division: Animal Industry
Branch: Animal Quarantine

Program Objective: To prevent the introduction of rabies through quarantine and to prevent the introduction of animal diseases through the detection of pests and diseases in imported dogs and cats.

Deptl Obj: To improve compliance with laws, rules & provisions of quarantine.

Program Goal 1. To reduce the hardships imposed on owners and their pets by simplifying the quarantine requirements for dogs and cats entering Hawaii.

The role of the division is to operate the animal quarantine station in an efficient, humane, cost effective manner and recommend changes to the quarantine program based on sound scientific principles and reasonable considerations.

Hawaii is the only rabies-free state in the United States. Prior to 1997, all dogs and cats were confined at the animal quarantine station for 120 days to reduce the risk of rabies introduction. The length of the confinement period was based on recommendations of the Expert Rabies Committee, World Health Organization. In 1996, confinement alternatives were sought to address the hardship of 120-day quarantine on pets and pet owners, resulting in the implementation of a 30-day quarantine alternative in 1997. During 1998, guide dogs for the blind were exempted from quarantine if specific pre- and post arrival requirements were met. This exemption was extended to other classes of service dogs during 2000. All other dogs and cats entering Hawaii, except from designated rabies-free areas, are required to undergo either 30- or 120-day quarantine.

The complexity of the 30-day quarantine qualification requirements and cost of quarantine have emerged as concerns for some quarantine users. Simplifying Administrative Rules without increasing the risk of rabies introduction has been an ongoing process. Changes supported by the department during 1999 included: allowing additional categories of service dogs to enter the state without quarantine; removing the requirement for a "designated address" for service dog users; eliminating the 90-day post-quarantine observation period; eliminating certain pre-entry requirements considered irrelevant with respect to rabies exclusion; reducing the minimum interval between pre-entry rabies vaccinations from six months to three months; allowing electronic microchips to be obtained from sources other than the State; and simplifying the requirements for performance and working animals. These recommended changes were adopted by Rule and implemented during 2000.

The division will examine the possibility of reducing the duration of quarantine from 30 days to 20 days based on findings from a planned scientific risk assessment. Information utilized to determine the feasibility of further reductions in quarantine duration include: evaluating worldwide trends in rabies and rabies control programs; monitoring advances in vaccine and diagnostic technology; consulting with rabies experts; and developing and analyzing relevant risk assessment computer models. Risk assessment is a process subject to frequent revisions based on the timely identification of pertinent emerging rabies patterns and information. Administrative Rule changes, including a reduction in the quarantine period, must be consistent with the program goal of maintaining Hawaii's rabies-free status and public input is a critical component of the overall process.

Based on risk evaluation, it is likely that there is justification to devise a quarantine option that would allow Hawaii resident dogs and cats to leave the State for a specified period of time and return without quarantine. This possibility will be explored during 2002 and such a program may be implemented during 2003.

The performance measures that will be used to assess the progress toward the Goal are the changes in Chapter 29, *Dogs, Cats, and Other Carnivores*, Hawaii Administrative Rules, relative to 2000 requirements.

Current Five-Year Plan

Identify Target/Task	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1. Minimum quarantine (days)	30	30	20	20	20
2. Maximum quarantine (days)	120	120	120	120	120
3. Service dog rules amended			X		
4. Service dog rules implemented				X	
5. General rules amended		X	X	X	
6. General rules implemented			X	X	X
7. Risk assessment completed	X		X		
8. Reduced confinement period amended		X			
9. Reduced confinement period implemented			X		
10. Develop resident animal program	X				
11. Resident animal rules amended		X			
12. Guam designated as exempt area		X			

X Projected Year for Completion