



**TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION**  
**1-800-550-8242, Ext. 777 or 512-719-0777**

## Summary of Texas Requirements

### For Intrastate, Interstate and International Livestock (Domestic and Exotic), Poultry and Ratites

**Note:** The following summary is a condensed version of the Texas Animal Health Commission regulations. The regulations will supersede this summary if there is a dispute between the two.

### Exotic Livestock and Ratites Requirements

1. Intrastate (Exotic Livestock and Ratites moved within the state of Texas)
  - A. All exotic livestock originating in Texas and participating in:
    1. Intrastate shows, fairs, and exhibitions (those functions that require Texas livestock, poultry and ratites of the same species to be housed and exhibited separate and apart from livestock, poultry and ratites from out of state) are exempt from the certificate of veterinary inspection and testing requirements.
    2. Interstate shows, fairs, and exhibitions (those functions that permit livestock and poultry from other states to enter for show or exhibition and held in common facilities with Texas origin livestock and poultry of the same species) must meet the same other requirements as for those species entering from out-of-state and be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection.
      - Ratites must be individually identified and tested negative for Avian Influenza and Salmonella pullorum-typhoid within 30 days.
  - B. Surveillance Requirements for Elk within Texas:
    1. Free ranging elk: In order to transport or move free ranging elk live within the state, the person controlling the elk shall have tested elk, that is sixteen (16) months of age or older and from the same population as the elk being moved, in accordance with the schedule in subparagraphs (A) - (D) of this paragraph. Tests are valid for one (1) year from date of issuance of the test results. Any CWD test results indicating "detected" means the positive elk shall be restricted by quarantine and handled in accordance with §40.2 of this chapter (relating to General Requirements), nor may any elk associated with this elk be moved or transported. All elk being transported or moved from a premise shall be individually identified in accordance with subsection (E) of this section.
      - a. To authorize movement of between one (1) to ten (10) elk, prior to movement, there shall be one (1) valid not-detected CWD test result filed prior to movement.
      - b. To authorize movement of between eleven (11) to twenty (20) elk, prior to movement, there shall be two (2) valid not-detected CWD tests results filed prior to movement.
      - c. To authorize movement of between twenty-one (21) to thirty (30) elk, prior to movement, there shall be three (3) valid not-detected CWD test results filed prior to movement.
      - d. To authorize movement of more than thirty (30) elk, prior to movement, there shall be one valid not-detected CWD test result for every ten elk filed prior to movement.
    2. Captive elk: In order to transport or move captive elk live within the state the person controlling the elk shall have tested an elk that is sixteen (16) months of age or older, within his control, in accordance with the schedule in subparagraphs (A) - (D) of this paragraph. Test results are valid for one (1) year from date of issuance of the test result. Any CWD test results of "detected" means all elk associated, and including, the positive elk shall be restricted by quarantine and handled in accordance with §40.2 of this chapter. All elk being transported or moved from a premise shall be individually identified in accordance with subsection (e) of this section.
      - a. To authorize movement of between one (1) to five (5) elk, prior to movement, there shall be one (1) valid not-detected CWD test result filed prior to movement.
      - b. To authorize movement of between six (6) to ten (10) elk, prior to movement, there shall be two (2) valid not-detected CWD test results, filed prior to movement.
      - c. To authorize movement of between eleven (11) to fifteen (15) elk, prior to movement, there shall be three (3) valid not-detected CWD test result, filed prior to movement.
      - d. To authorize movement of more than fifteen (15) elk, prior to movement, there shall be one (1) valid not-detected CWD test result for every five (5) elk, filed prior to movement.
      - e. Exemptions:



- Captive elk enrolled with the Commission in a monitored herd program in accordance with the requirements of §40.3 of this chapter (relating to Herd Status Plans for Cervidae). After the date of January 1, 2011, a herd with Level "A" status or higher as established through §40.3 of this chapter, is exempted from the testing schedule provided for in subparagraphs (A) - (D) of this paragraph, but elk movement must be reported in accordance with subsection (d) of this section; or
  - Elk that are moved directly from the premises where they were trapped or held to a recognized slaughter facility. A recognized slaughter facility is a slaughter facility operated under the state or federal meat inspection laws and regulations.
- C. Testing Requirements: CWD test samples shall be collected and submitted to an official laboratory for CWD diagnosis using a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) validated test. Test reporting shall be directed to the Commission by either writing to Texas Animal Health Commission, c/o Elk Movement Reporting, P.O. Box 12966, Austin, Texas 78711-2966; or by fax to (512) 719-0777 or by e-mail at [comments@tahc.state.tx.us](mailto:comments@tahc.state.tx.us).
- D. Movement Reporting Requirements: A report of all elk that are moved onto or off of premises shall be submitted to the Commission, either in hard copy on forms provided or authorized by the Commission, or an electronic copy. The person moving the elk must have documentation with the elk being moved to show compliance with the requirements of this subsection. Such report shall be submitted within forty-eight (48) hours of the movement. Movement reporting shall be directed to the Commission by either writing to Texas Animal Health Commission, c/o Elk Movement Reporting, P.O. Box 12966, Austin, Texas 78711-2966; or by fax to (512) 719-0777 or by e-mail at [comments@tahc.state.tx.us](mailto:comments@tahc.state.tx.us). The movement report shall include the following information:
1. Premises of origin;
  2. Premises of the destination;
  3. Number of elk being moved;
  4. Official individual identification device number;
  5. Other official or unofficial identification numbers;
  6. Age/Gender; and
  7. Test Results from the Testing Laboratory.
- E. Identification Requirements: Elk moved or transported within this state shall be identified with an official identification device, which may include an ear tag that conforms to the USDA alphanumeric national uniform ear tagging system, which is a visible and legible animal identification number (AIN) such as a Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) ear tag, or other identification methods approved by the Commission.
- F. Record Keeping: The buyer and seller must maintain records for all elk transported within the state or where there is a transfer of ownership, and provide those to Commission personnel upon request. Records required to be kept under the provisions of this section shall be maintained for not less than five (5) years. The records shall include the following information:
1. Owner's name;
  2. Location where the animal was sold or purchased;
  3. Official ID and/or Ranch tag (additional field for retag);
  4. Gender/age of animal;
  5. Source of animal (if purchased addition);
  6. Movement to other premises; and
  7. Disposition.
2. Interstate (Exotic Livestock and Ratites moved into the state from other states)
- A. Any livestock, poultry or ratites that are infected, exposed or quarantined in any manner for an infectious, contagious or communicable disease may not enter the state. Contact TAHC at 1-800-550-8242.
- B. Entry permits are required as noted in the following section and may be obtained by calling 512/719-0777 (24 hours) or 1-800-550-8242, ext. 777 or by writing the Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, P. O. Box 12966, Austin, Texas 78711-2966.
- C. Exotic Livestock Entry Requirements
1. Exotic Livestock are grass-eating or plant-eating, single-hooved or cloven-hooved mammals that are not indigenous to this state and are known as ungulates, including animals from the swine, horse, tapir, camel, llama, rhinoceros, elephant, deer, and antelope families.



2. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection required within 30 days prior to entry.
3. Entry permit required within 15 days prior to entry except for when animals are entering for exhibition and returning to their state of origin. See "Exotic cervidae 4. d." below for permits for Elk and Black-tailed deer.
4. Exotic Livestock Categories
  - a. Camelidae are defined as members of the family of animals which include camels, lamas, vicunas & domestic members who include llama, alpaca, and guanaco.
    - Brucellosis or Tuberculosis testing is not required
  - b. Ratites are defined as exotic fowl with a flat breastbone and small or nonexistent wings, such as ostriches, emu, rheas, and kiwi.
    - Individual identification (RFID device, a permanently attached tag or an implanted electronic device (microchip)).
    - A negative Avian Influenza test required within 30 days prior to entry.
    - A negative Salmonella pullorum-typhoid test required within 30 days prior to entry.
    - Birds or hatching eggs must originate from flocks that show no evidence of infectious disease and have no history of Avian Influenza in the past six months.
    - For slaughter only, may enter with an entry permit and either a waybill or certificate of veterinary inspection without meeting the testing or identification requirements.
  - c. Exotic bovidae means non-indigenous members of the family of animals which includes water buffalo, gnu (wildebeest), addax, antelope and nilgai (among others).
    - A negative brucellosis test is required within 30 days prior to entry.
    - A negative tuberculosis test is required within 60 days prior to entry.
  - d. Exotic cervidae is non-indigenous members of the family of animals which includes deer, elk, moose, caribou, reindeer and the sub-family musk deer.
    - A negative brucellosis test is required within 30 days prior to entry or be from a certified free herd.
    - Two tuberculosis tests which were conducted no less than 90 days apart; the second test was conducted within 90 days prior to date on movement; and that the animals were isolated from all other members of the herd during the testing period; or,
      - Originate from an accredited free herd; or,
      - Originate from a qualified herd and have a classified negative 90-day tuberculosis test. If the qualifying herd test was administered within 90 days of movement, the animal(s) do not require an additional test; or,
      - Originate from a monitored herd and have a classified negative 90-day tuberculosis test; or,
      - Be less than 12 months of age, originate and were born in accredited, qualified, or monitored herds and have not been exposed to cervids from a lower status.
    - Elk and Black-tailed deer require a written TAHC entry permit. Contact TAHC 512/719-0777 (24 hours) or 1-800-550-8242, ext. 777 or by writing the Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, P. O. Box 12966, Austin, Texas 78711-2966.
      - All requests for entry must be made in writing and accompanied with the information necessary to support import qualifications of the animal(s). This should be received by the TAHC at least 10 working days prior to the proposed entry date.
      - The applicant must identify the herd of origin and herd of destination, the herd status for CWD for herd of origin, the herd status or testing information for Brucellosis and Tuberculosis for herd of origin and two forms of official individual identification. Additionally, the herd of origin must meet one of the following criteria for all elk and black-tailed deer (or other susceptible species):
        - In states where there is a state approved CWD monitoring program and where CWD has not been identified in a susceptible species then animals require a 3 year state-approved CWD status.
        - From states which do not have a CWD monitoring program and where CWD has not been identified in a susceptible species then all animals require a 5 year state-approved CWD status.



- In states where there is a state approved CWD monitoring program and CWD has been identified in a susceptible species then all animals require a 5 year state-approved CWD status.
  - e. Exotic swine includes Russian Wild Boars, African Wild Pigs and Warthogs (among others)
    - A negative brucellosis test is required within 30 days prior to entry or be from a validated free herd.
    - A negative pseudorabies test is required within 30 days prior to entry or be from a qualified free herd.
3. International (Animals moved into the state from foreign countries)
- Contact USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) for International animal requirements.