

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Finlay Carson MSP
Convener of the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural
Environment Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

28 June 2022

Dear Finlay,

THE NON-COMMERCIAL MOVEMENT OF PET ANIMALS (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2022 (SS1 2022/131)

Thank you for your letter of 23 May 2022 with a number of follow-up questions relating to the Committee's consideration of the above negative instrument which was discussed at its meeting on 18 May 2022.

In relation to the efficacy of the ELISA test relative to the FAVN test, the ELISA test has been approved by the World Organisation for Animal Health's Biological Standards Commission, meaning it has met an acceptable level of appropriate validation and has acceptable test performance characteristics. The use of ELISA technology is widespread and tests are applied to a wide range of microbial agents. The validated ELISAs are suitable to rapidly determine whether there are rabies specific antibodies in a healthy animal – indicative of vaccination.

Experts, and veterinary colleagues, from the Animal and Plant Health Agency National Reference Laboratory at Weybridge have advised that the ELISA test could be relied on to satisfy ourselves quickly that a pet is vaccinated and has a sufficient level of protection against the rabies virus.

On the question of funding, I can confirm that the UK Government¹ is paying for ELISA tests for pets accompanying Ukrainian refugees (to those animals who enter through the appropriate channels), and is also covering their vaccination, microchipping and quarantine costs. This recognises that many individuals from Ukraine will not have been able to complete the full health preparations required for their pet on arrival. Non-Ukrainian national pet owners

¹ [Emergency support put in place for people fleeing Ukraine and entering the UK with their pets - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emergency-support-put-in-place-for-people-fleeing-ukraine-and-entering-the-uk-with-their-pets)

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would be responsible for the costs in all other circumstances. This position was confirmed at a meeting of the Animal Disease Policy Group on 15 March 2022.

Yours sincerely,



MAIRI GOUGEON

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
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