AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2004/22

Amendments to the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*

- Dangerous Dogs

The *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* have been amended to remove the absolute prohibition on the importation of four breeds of dog to permit their importation for certain scientific purposes. The amendments were notified in Special Gazette No. S212 dated 18 June 2004. The amendments commenced on notification.

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry or a person authorised by the Minister may permit the importation of the following dog breeds for scientific purposes:

* dogo Argentino
* fila Brasileiro
* Japanese tosa
* American pit bull terrier or pit bull terrier

The scientific purposes are the same as those set out in the Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes as administered by the National Health and Medical Research Council. In deciding whether to grant a permission, the Minister or an authorised person has to take into account whether the place at which the dog is to be used conforms with the Code and whether an Animal Ethics Committee (established in accordance with the Code) has approved the scientific purpose.

The permission to import the nominated breeds of dogs as issued by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry or an authorised person is to be produced to a Collector.

Inquiries concerning this notice may be directed to Community Protection Policy on telephone number (02) 6275 6307 or fax number (02) 6275 5828.

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