

To: All Pet Shops and Veterinarians

Re: Monkey Pox and Pet Shops

6-12-2003

To all concerned,

Please review and distribute the attached Joint Order from the CDC, FDA, DHHS concerning Monkey Pox and pet shops. The information provided on the CDC website links are very useful and reflect the federal governments mandatory quarantine and reporting of any suspicious cases involving prairie dogs, the six species of African rodents listed, and the Monkey Pox virus.

It is mandatory to report all recent importation and sales of prairie dogs, Gambian rats or other species of mammals implicated in this outbreak. The government is imposing a ban on the movement, transfer, euthanasia, disposal, importation, and sale of these species until further notice. Pet shops or any individual selling many of these types of animals must have both a state and federal license. There are very few fully licensed pet shops in the state; so all known sales and sources must provide the information, or be reported, to enable locating or tracing of these animals.

In the event that an animal becomes ill, dies or is suspected of carrying the Monkey Pox Virus, please call the Animal Health office or the RIDEM Dispatcher at 222-2284 before handling the animal or transporting it to a veterinarian. Animal health staff will arrange for the examination and disposition of the animal under strict biosecurity in order to minimize any potential exposure to the public.

Please contact my office at the address below for more information and reporting.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

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