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Bringing them in . . .

ALIVE and HEALTHY

Health-inspecting and quarantining wild zoo animals from Africa... purebred cattle from Ireland... or thoroughbred horses from France... are all in the day's work for the staff of the Animal Inspection and Quarantine Station at Clifton, N. J. This is part of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's service to keep out foreign animal diseases that could devastate our livestock and endanger our food supplies.

Foot-and-mouth disease, for example, is present in most countries of the world, but has been kept out of the United States since 1929. Rinderpest is another serious animal disease kept from our shores. Fowl plague, eradicated from the U. S. some years ago, after accidental entry, could cause serious losses in our poultry. African horse sickness, now spreading to new areas of the world, has made it necessary to impose a 30-day quarantine on horses and related animals from affected countries. Horses are also required to pass blood tests for dourine and glanders -- two diseases that have been eradicated from the United States.
Cattle, sheep, swine, and other domestic animals subject to foot-and-mouth disease or rinderpest are not permitted to come in from countries where these diseases exist. However, wild animals are accepted under restrictions. Giraffes, buffalo, gazelles, antelope, and other ruminants may be shipped here under permit and certification as to health after passing a 60-day pre-shipment quarantine and only from three ports—Mombasa and Walvis Bay, Africa, and Hamburg, Germany. They must enter through the Port of New York for inspection and quarantine at the Clifton Animal Quarantine Station. Animals released from the station are held in permanent quarantine at approved zoos.

Last year 118 zoo animals, 1,000 domestic animals, and 8,000 birds passed through inspection and quarantine at Clifton, N. J. Veterinarians rejected and destroyed 18 animals and more than 1,000 birds as unsafe for entry.

The Clifton Station, operated by the Animal Inspection and Quarantine Division of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, is a unit of the Port of New York USDA Import-Export Station. The Port has 1,900 piers, and nearly 1,000 ships dock there each month. The International Airport at Idlewild, also a part of the Port of New York, handles as many as 2,000 foreign flights (excluding those to and from Canada) during a peak month. The Animal Inspection and Quarantine veterinarians and inspectors assigned to the Port are responsible for seeing that shipments of animal by-products and veterinary biological materials, as well as animals and animal semen, conform to regulations designed to keep out dangerous animal diseases. These specialists have a dual role—they also inspect and certify livestock for export, thus promoting our export trade. Custom officers and postal inspectors cooperate with the U. S. Department of Agriculture in preventing the entry of meat and other prohibited agricultural products in passenger baggage or in the mails.

The Port of New York is one of 88 ports of entry throughout the country where USDA's veterinarians and quarantine inspectors are stationed to guard against foreign animal diseases.
Even this small African antelope puts up a fight against tattooing. Healthy wild ruminants may be life-long carriers of foot-and-mouth virus. Permanent identification enables tracing an animal in the event of an outbreak of disease.

Giraffes in comfortable stalls at the USDA quarantine station are unruffled by insecticide treatment. Attendant uses a fogging machine to apply a penetrating mist.

Valuable breeding stock and exhibit animals from foreign countries are often shipped by air. Domestic ruminants are permitted entry only from countries that do not have foot-and-mouth disease or rinderpest.

USDA veterinarian checks ear-tags of calves arriving from the Channel Islands. A certificate from a Government veterinarian of the country of origin must accompany the animals. Cattle are permitted entry only from countries that do not have foot-and-mouth disease or rinderpest.

Horses from most countries are blood-tested for dourine and glanders and held until negative result is obtained — about 4 days. Horses from countries with African horse sickness are tested and quarantined for 30 days. Here veterinarian draws blood for test.

These white swans from Holland have passed the 21-day quarantine period required for poultry and are being released to a bird and animal farm. Birds could bring in virulent strains of Newcastle disease or other serious poultry diseases.
Trucks transporting animals are washed and disinfected before leaving the Clifton Animal Quarantine Station. Employees must have rubber footwear and walk through pan of disinfectant on entering and leaving the isolation area and on entering and leaving each barn.

The USDA Animal Inspection and Quarantine inspector (seated) goes over ship's customs manifest with Customs officer. Hides, wool, bonemeal, and other animal products may enter this country, if treated to destroy animal disease organisms.

This shipment of wet salt-treated pigskins imported from Poland is permitted entry for transfer under seal to an approved processing plant. Approved plants must satisfy USDA Animal Inspection and Quarantine Division's requirements designed to guard against animal diseases.

Foreign meats and meat products sent through the mails without permit are intercepted by postal authorities. USDA quarantine inspectors examine such products and see that prohibited items are burned.

Customs officer consults with USDA inspector about package of animal vaccine he has found in passenger's baggage at the N. Y. International Airport. Vaccines may be a source of animal disease and may enter only by special permit.

The USDA inspector certifies pedigree of this greyhound for Customs. Cats, swine, sheep, cattle and horses may enter duty-free when certified as pure-bred.