Letter to US Customs – Animal Products that do not require an import permit

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Attention: US Customs Officials

USDA - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

**Health Assurance**

Dear US Customs Service and USDA Agents,

Enclosed in this shipment are cheek (buccal) swab samples from domestic cats. These samples have no commercial value and are for scientific research applications only – genetic testing. They are being shipped from Dr. Leslie Lyons at the University of Missouri – Columbia, College of Veterinary Medicine for commercial genetic testing.

Below is the information required in accordance with USDA Guideline # 1102.

(www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/import-live-animals/no-import-permit-req)

1. The samples are cheek (buccal) swabs of domestic cats from PUT SPECIFIC LOCATION HERE. All cats were of normal health and have not been part of any scientific experimentation.

2. These samples do not contain any other animal-derived products, particularly of agricultural concern, such as fetal calf serum. These samples do not contain any livestock or poultry origin material. They are domestic cat products only.

3. The samples are not derived from cats that have or have been exposed to agents that are infectious or contagious agents to human beings or of agricultural concern. Thes cats have not been inoculated with or exposed to any livestock or poultry disease agents.

4. These samples have no commercial value, they are for research / commercial testing purposes only.

If this information is not sufficient, please contact Dr. Leslie Lyons at the University of Missouri – Columbia, College of Veterinary Medicine. E-mail: lyonsla@missouri.edu Phone / Fax: (573) 884-2287

**If these samples are detained by US Customs, please maintain at room temperature until the samples can be released.**