# EXECUTIVE NOTE

## THE RABIES (IMPORTATION OF DOGS, CATS AND OTHER MAMMALS) AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) ORDER 2011
## 2011 No. 46

### Introduction

1. This instrument is made under Sections 1, 10, 24, 95(1) of the Animal Health Act 1981.

2. This instrument amends the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974 in so far as it applies to Scotland. Matters of import and export control are generally reserved under Head C5 of Schedule 5 to the Scotland Act 1998. However, the import and export control of animals for the purposes of protecting human or animal health is excepted from that reservation. The prohibition or regulation of movement of animals into Scotland under the 1974 Order is therefore devolved.

3. Rabies is an invariably fatal viral disease of the nervous system caused by a *rhabdovirus* which can affect all mammals including humans. The disease is usually spread through contact with saliva via the bite of an infected animal, but can be transmitted through an open wound or a mucous membrane such as those in the mouth, nasal cavity or eyes. Rabies is still widely distributed across the world, is present on all continents and endemic in most African and Asian countries.

### Policy Background

4. For the purpose of preventing the introduction of rabies into Great Britain, the 1974 Order provides for the majority of animals to which it applies to be detained in quarantine for a period of six calendar months from the date of landing in GB. Veterinary advice is that rodents and lagomorphs imported for scientific purposes, including imports for zoos, pose a negligible risk of disease incursion.

### Policy Objectives

5. The purpose of this Amendment Order, therefore, is to revise the import requirements for live rodents and lagomorphs imported into research establishments and zoos and wildlife parks by exempting them from undergoing six months quarantine provided they meet specific conditions set out in the licence authorising their import.

### Consultation

6. No consultation has been undertaken as the changes are being made to benefit of importers (research establishments) and brings Scotland into line with the legal arrangements which have applied elsewhere in the UK since 2004.

**Financial Implications**

7. No BRIA has been prepared for this Order as its provisions will not impose any additional financial burdens on importers of the species of animals covered. Similarly there are no cost implications for the public sector from the making of these Regulations, nor will there be any costs

**Animal Health and Welfare Division**
**Scottish Government**
**Rural Affairs and the Environment**