GOAT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF ZIMBABWE

Veterinary import permits

The five-step Veterinary Import Permit journey for live animals, animal products, vaccines, feed additives, grains and in-transit consignments



Boer goats. Photograph: Boer Goat Breeders' Society gallery.

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> *Transcribed from the DVS poster "Importing into Zimbabwe? Do it right. Do it on time." and checked against official pages on 18 November 2026. The Permit Office email address is corroborated by DVS forms republished abroad but not yet by a Zimbabwean government page. No permit, no entry.*

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Conditions depend on the country of origin. Cloven-hoofed imports from South Africa are restricted by foot-and-mouth disease measures; check the current position before paying a deposit.

SECTION 1

Before you start

A Veterinary Import Permit from the DVS Veterinary Permit Office under the Animal Health (Import) Regulations, SI 57 of 1989, is required for live animals, products of animal origin, vaccines, feed additives, grains and in-transit consignments. Apply by email or phone, allow at least 14 working days, collect and pay at 18 Liberation Legacy Way, Harare, and present the permit to ZIMRA, ZRP and DVS at the port of entry. No permit, no entry.

No permit, no entry
Animals that arrive at the border without a Veterinary Import Permit are refused entry or detained. Apply first; let the exporter ship only after the permit is issued and the health certificate has been written against its conditions.

SECTION 2

The five steps

1

Send an email or call the Veterinary Permit Office (to be confirmed)
Email vetpermits@gmail.com or call +263 242 791516 (Monday to Friday, working hours) with what you wish to import, the country of origin and details of the animals or animal products: species, breed, number, sex, age, purpose, exporter, exporting veterinary authority, proposed port of entry, and pedigree papers for registered goats. The office logs the application and may ask for more information.

2

Application processing (to be confirmed)
Processing takes at least 14 working days depending on the products. DVS sets the permit conditions (tests, pre-export isolation, treatments) that the exporting country's veterinarian must certify against.

3

Permit ready for collection
The office contacts you to collect the permit at 18 Liberation Legacy Way, Harare (the DVS head office, listed on agric.gov.zw as 18 Borrowdale Road, Bevan Building; Borrowdale Road has been renamed Liberation Legacy Way).

4

Payment on collection (to be confirmed)
Pay by cash, EcoCash or bank transfer in USD or local currency at the office. The fee is not stated on the poster. Treasury announced the livestock genetics import permit (heifers, bulls, semen) cut from US$100 to US$20 in September 2025; whether that applies to goats is unverified.

5

At the port of entry

Produce the import permit to ZIMRA, ZRP and DVS (Veterinary Port Health) with the exporting country's veterinary health certificate issued against the permit conditions. Animals may be directed to quarantine as the permit requires, then moved to the farm under a movement permit. Register imported stud goats with the Zimbabwe Herd Book (imported animal registration US$20).

Who handles each step, what to bring and what happens next

Step	Who handles it	What to bring	What happens next
1. Send an email or call the Veterinary Permit Office	DVS Veterinary Permit Office	Importer details; Exporter and farm-of-origin details; Animal details and pedigree documents	The office acknowledges the application and starts processing.
2. Application processing	DVS Veterinary Permit Office	Nothing extra	Wait for the office to contact you; do not let the exporter ship before the permit is issued.
3. Permit ready for collection	DVS Veterinary Permit Office	ID; Application reference	Pay on collection (step 4).
4. Payment on collection	DVS Veterinary Permit Office	Payment	Send a copy of the permit to the exporter.
5. At the port of entry	DVS Veterinary Port Health; ZIMRA; ZRP; Zimbabwe Herd Book	Original import permit; Veterinary health certificate; ZIMRA customs documents; Transit permits for countries crossed; Movement permit to the farm	Quarantine as directed, then move home under a movement permit and update your stock card.

SECTION 3

Commodity groups

The permit covers more than live animals.

Live animals, including breeding goats

Goats, sheep, cattle, pigs and other live animals need a Veterinary Import Permit before they leave the exporting country; the permit sets the tests, isolation and treatments the exporting veterinarian certifies.

- Apply with species, breed, numbers, sex, age, purpose, exporter and port of entry
- DVS conditions for sheep and goats include freedom from scrapie, brucellosis and PPR and tests such as tuberculosis within 90 days where required (USDA APHIS model certificate)
- Cloven-hoofed animals from South Africa are limited by FMD measures; check the current position before paying a deposit
- Quarantine on arrival as the permit directs, then a movement permit to the farm
- Register imported stud goats with the Zimbabwe Herd Book (US$20 per animal)

Products of animal origin

Meat, hides and skins, semen and embryos, dairy and other animal products need the same permit, with conditions set for the product and its origin.

- State the product, quantity, packaging and processing establishment
- Semen and embryos for breeding carry genetic import conditions; Treasury announced the livestock genetics permit at US$20 (from US$100) for cattle genetics; goats unverified
- Port health inspection US$20 per consignment (SI 56 of 2016)

Vaccines and veterinary biologicals

Vaccines and other biologicals are imported under permit so that only registered products with a known cold chain enter.

- Name the product, manufacturer, batch and intended use
- Keep the cold-chain record for inspection at entry
- Stock remedies sold in Zimbabwe must also be registered; buy only labelled, registered products

Feed additives and premixes

Feed additives, premixes and feeds of animal origin need a permit because they can carry disease and residues.

- State the composition, origin and manufacturer
- Products containing animal protein attract the strictest conditions
- Observe withdrawal periods on arrival; DVS tests for residues

Grains and feed grains

Grains for animal feed are listed on the DVS poster as permit goods; plant health permits from the Plant Quarantine Service may apply in addition.

- State the grain, quantity, origin and use
- Check whether a plant import permit is also required
- Declare the consignment to ZIMRA with the veterinary permit

Consignments in transit through Zimbabwe

Animals and animal products crossing Zimbabwe on the way to another country need an In-Transit Veterinary Permit from the same office.

- Apply as for an import, naming the entry and exit ports and the route
- Port health inspection US$20 per consignment for in-transit goods (SI 56 of 2016)
- Carry the destination country's import permit and the transit permit together

SECTION 4

Port-of-entry documents

You will be asked to produce the permit to ZIMRA, ZRP and DVS officials. Have these ready in one folder.

Document	Checked by
Original Veterinary Import Permit	DVS Veterinary Port Health
Veterinary health certificate from the exporting country's official veterinarian, issued against the permit conditions	DVS Veterinary Port Health
Transit permits for countries crossed	Transit-country veterinary services; checked at entry
Customs documents: bill of entry, commercial invoice, Certificate of Origin where preferential duty is claimed	ZIMRA
Proof of ownership and identification list (tag numbers, pedigree papers)	ZRP and DVS
Port health inspection fee receipt (US$20 per consignment under SI 56 of 2016)	Collected through ZIMRA
Movement permit from the port or quarantine station to the farm	District Veterinary Office

SECTION 5

Who to contact

Verified means the number was read on the body's own page on 18 November 2026; unverified numbers come from press reports or directories. Provincial DVS numbers use legacy area codes.

Office	Role	Phone, email, address	Status
DVS Veterinary Permit Office	Veterinary Import Permits and In-Transit Permits	+263 242 791516 vetpermits@gmail.com 18 Liberation Legacy Way (18 Borrowdale Road), Harare; Monday to Friday working hours	Unverified
Director of Veterinary Services (postal)	Import permit authority	+263 242 791516 PO Box CY66, Causeway, Harare	Unverified
Directorate of Veterinary Services head office	Collection point for permits; head office	+263 242 706603 / +263 242 706604 18 Borrowdale Road (Liberation Legacy Way), Bevan Building, Harare. Monday to Friday 08:00 to 16:45	Verified
Zimbabwe Herd Book	Registration of imported animals (US$20)	024 2756600 / 024 2777391 / 024 2772915 / 0774 122660	Verified

SECTION 6

Fees and charges

Charges from the DVS 2015 US$ schedule re-issued in November 2020 are historic; confirm current charges with your Veterinary Office. Announced figures are from the Treasury statement of 11 September 2025 and may not yet be gazetted.

Charge	Amount	Basis	Status and source
Veterinary Import Permit	Not published	paid on collection: cash, EcoCash or bank transfer	Unverified. DVS import permit poster. Fee not stated on the poster; ask the Permit Office when you apply
Alternative figure: Livestock genetics import permit (Treasury announcement)	US$20	from US$100; heifers, bulls and semen named; goats unverified	Announced. Treasury statement, 11 Sep 2025 (The Herald)
Port health inspection, imports	US$20	per consignment; non-commercial US$5	Verified. SI 56 of 2016, Sixth Schedule (collected through ZIMRA)
Port health inspection, in-transit	US$20	per consignment	Verified. SI 56 of 2016, Sixth Schedule
Quarantine, sheep and goats	US$2	per animal per day, excluding feed, dipping and vaccines	Historic schedule. DVS price list, 2015 US$ schedule re-issued Nov 2020; confirm current charges
Imported animal registration (Zimbabwe Herd Book)	US$20	per animal	Verified. Zimbabwe Herd Book fees 2026
Movement permit from the port to the farm	US$10	per permit	Historic schedule. DVS price list, 2015 US$ schedule re-issued Nov 2020; confirm current charges

SECTION 7

Exceptions and things GBAZ is confirming

- Species: Goats: yes. The permit covers live animals of all species, products of animal origin, vaccines, feed additives and grains. Conditions for goats follow the health certificate DVS specifies (the US model lists tests such as tuberculosis within 90 days where required).
- Destination: Conditions depend on the country of origin. South Africa: new import permits for live cloven-hoofed animals were suspended in January 2026 and a partial Western Cape channel was reported; South Africa declared FMD a national disaster on 13 February 2026. Check the current status before paying a deposit on Boer, Kalahari Red or Savanna stock.
- To confirm: vetpermits@gmail.com is a Gmail address. It is corroborated by DVS permit forms republished by USDA APHIS and by the Australian Government's MICOR page, but was not found on a Zimbabwean government page. GBAZ is asking DVS whether an official domain address exists.

- To confirm: Processing time (14 working days) and the fee position are from the poster and the Treasury announcement only.
- To confirm: A Control of Goods import licence may also be required (press report, unverified).
- Note: Transit: consignments crossing Botswana need a Botswana in-transit permit; goods in transit through Zimbabwe need a Zimbabwean In-Transit Veterinary Permit.

Legal references and sources (all accessed 18 November 2026)

- DVS poster: Importing into Zimbabwe? Do it right. Do it on time. (Directorate of Veterinary Services): GBAZ hub copy
- Animal Health (Import) Regulations, 1989 (SI 57/1989) and amendments (FAOLEX/UNEP-LEAP abstract): https://leap.unep.org/en/countries/zw/national-legislation/animal-health-import-regulations-si-no-57-1989
- Animal Health (Import) (Amendment) Regulations, 2016 (SI 56/2016): port health fees (Government Gazette via FAOLEX): https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/zim170797.pdf
- Zimbabwe sheep and goats health certificate (model) (USDA APHIS): https://direct.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/zimbabwe-sheep-goats-hc.pdf
- Issuance of transit permit for livestock (Botswana) (Government of Botswana): https://www.gov.bw/business-compliance-animal-husbandry/issuance-transit-permit-livestock-and-livestock-prod
- Zimbabwe suspends livestock imports from South Africa over FMD outbreak (The Herald): https://www.heraldonline.co.zw/zimbabwe-suspends-livestock-imports-from-south-africa-over-fmd-outbreak/
- Zimbabwe reopens border to cloven-hoofed animals from the Western Cape (Farmer's Weekly): https://www.farmersweekly.co.za/agri-news/africa/zimbabwe-reopens-border-to-cloven-hoofed-animals-from-the-
- Government slashes agricultural value-chain fees (Treasury statement, 11 Sep 2025) (The Herald): https://www.heraldonline.co.zw/govt-slashes-agric-value-chain-fees-in-sweeping-regulatory-overhaul/

SECTION 8

Email template

Replace the bracketed items and send to the Veterinary Permit Office.

To: vetpermits@gmail.com | Subject: Veterinary Import Permit application: [number] [breed] goats from [country]

Dear Veterinary Permit Office

I wish to apply for a Veterinary Import Permit under the Animal Health (Import) Regulations (SI 57 of 1989).

Importer: [full name or company], [ID or company registration number] | Address: [physical address], [district], [province] | Phone: [number] Email: [address]

Consignment: [number] live goats, breed [breed], [number] males and [number] females, aged [range], for [breeding / slaughter / show] | Identification: [ear tag numbers or pedigree registration numbers attached] | Country of origin: [country] | Exporter: [name, address, phone, email] | Farm or establishment of origin: [name and location] | Exporting veterinary authority: [name of the official veterinary service] | Proposed port of entry: [Beitbridge / Plumtree / Chirundu / other] Route and transit countries: [details] | Proposed date of departure: [date] Quarantine on arrival: [location and arrangements]

Attached: [pedigree papers, exporter's details, any previous permit reference]

Please advise the permit conditions, the fee and the collection date. I can collect at 18 Liberation Legacy Way, Harare, and pay by cash, EcoCash or bank transfer.

Kind regards | [name] | GBAZ member number [number]

SECTION 9

Checklist: import application

What the Veterinary Permit Office needs from you before processing starts.

- [ ] Importer details: full name or company, ID or registration number, physical address, phone and email
- [ ] What you wish to import: species, breed, number, sex and age of each animal, or the product, quantity and packaging
- [ ] Purpose: breeding, slaughter, feedlot, show, research or re-export
- [ ] Country of origin, exporter's name and address, and the farm or establishment of origin
- [ ] Exporting country's veterinary authority that will certify the consignment
- [ ] Proposed port of entry and route, including countries crossed in transit. Transit through Botswana needs a Botswana in-transit permit.
- [ ] Pedigree papers or export certificate from the exporting breed society for registered goats
- [ ] Quarantine arrangements on arrival: where, for how long, who supervises
- [ ] Timing: application sent at least 14 working days before the animals are due to leave
- [ ] Collection and payment planned at 18 Liberation Legacy Way, Harare: cash, EcoCash or bank transfer
- [ ] Permit copy sent to the exporter so the health certificate is issued against its conditions
- [ ] Current FMD position checked for the origin country (South Africa restrictions apply)

Keep this page in the vehicle or the application folder
Confirm the position with the authority named on the day. Figures marked unverified or announced come from posters, press reports or the September 2025 Treasury statement.