



Republic of the Philippines  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
Elliptical Road, Diliman  
1100 Quezon City

**MEMORANDUM ORDER**

No. 34  
Series of 2020

**SUBJECT: TEMPORARY BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF DOMESTIC AND WILD RABBITS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**WHEREAS**, Section 6 and 7 (2) and (4) of Executive Order No. 292 provides the authority and responsibility for the exercise of the mandate of the Department and for the discharge of its powers and functions shall be vested in the Secretary, who shall have supervision and control of the Department, to establish the policies and standards for the operation of the Department pursuant to the approved programs of government and promulgate administrative issuances necessary for the efficient administration of the offices under the Secretary and the proper execution of the laws relative thereto;

**WHEREAS**, Section 1770 of Act No. 2711 (Revised Administrative Code of 1917) which was adopted by incorporation together with Sections 1761-1769, in Section 5 of Act 3639 (Charter of BAI) empowers the Department Head to issue a general order preventing the entry of animals, animal effects, parts or products from any country with dangerous communicable animal disease;

**WHEREAS**, based on the official report to the OIE submitted by Dr Mark Davidson, Associate Administrator, USDA-APHIS, United States Department of Agriculture on July 02, 2020, that the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease outbreaks which was first reported on July 8, 2019 are continuing in the country affecting both domestic and wild rabbits, with the most recent outbreak on June 30, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, Rabbit hemorrhagic disease is a highly contagious and fatal viral infection posing a threat to the growing rabbit industry in the country hence must be protected from this emerging disease;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. DAR**, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby institute the following measures for the importation of domestic and wild rabbits including their meat, semen and pelts from the USA:

1. Banning the importation of Domestic and Wild rabbits including their meat, semen and pelts;
2. Immediate suspension of the processing, evaluation of the application and issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) import clearance to the above-stated commodity;
3. Cancellation of issued SPS Import Clearance for shipments that have not left the country of origin.
4. Stoppage and confiscation of all shipments of the above stated commodity into the country by all DA Veterinary Quarantine Officers/Inspectors at all major ports.

This ORDER shall take effect immediately.

Done this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020.

**WILLIAM D. DAR, PhD**  
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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*with prosperous farmers and fishersfolk*

