THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
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Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

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Secretary

DOUGLAS P. GILLESPIE
Commissioner

EMERGENCY ORDER
Pursuant to General Laws Chapter 129, Section 2

October13, 2006 1-AHO-06

To all persons involved in the breeding , dealing, transport, auction, or ownership of sheep and goats in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

An Order Requiring the Official Identification of All Sheep and Goats at the time of Change of Ownership, or at 18 months of age (as evidenced by the eruption of the second incisor), whichever occurs first.

Whereas USDA maintains a National Scrapie Program in order to prevent and minimize the spread of this disease; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts is currently considered by USDA to be a Consistent state with regard to Scrapie status; and

WHEREAS, In order to maintain this consistent status Massachusetts must comply with Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations Section 79.6 which requires, among other items, that sheep and goats shall be officially identified at the time of change of ownership and all sheep over 18 months of age (as evidenced by the eruption of the second incisor) shall be officially identified such that the animal can be traced to its flock of birth; and

WHEREAS, current Massachusetts state law and regulation allow for the control of Scrapie by investigation, quarantine, movement restriction, and reporting but do not contain provisions requiring identification time of change of ownership and of all sheep over 18 months of age; and

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in me in MGL Chapter 129 Section 2, I hereby order that all sheep and goats shall be officially identified at the time of change of ownership, or at 18 months of age (as evidenced by the eruption of the second incisor), whichever occurs first. *Official Identification* shall be defined by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) publication Scrapie Eradication Uniform Methods & Rules, or other means as approved by USDA for this purpose, and shall ensure that an individual animal can be traced to its flock of birth.

Brad Mitchell
Director
Division of Biosecurity and Regulatory Services

10/13/06
Date