



March 6, 2006

VICE PRESIDENTS, AREA OPERATIONS
MANAGER, CAPITAL METRO OPERATIONS

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Lives

This is to advise you of procedures concerning the acceptance of live animals. Customer groups and Congress have been making inquiries into our policies and it is therefore timely to identify strategies for improving customer convenience.

In general, certain live animals are mailable as stated in Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) section 601.9.3 and Publication 52 section 52. However, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) does not accept shipments of animals that the USPS reasonably believes cannot reach their destinations in a viable condition. The acceptance of lives is complicated by the availability of air transportation from origin to destination. Currently FedEx, our major air transportation supplier, does not transport lives dispatched by mail. Some other air carriers do allow for lives as mail, but apply restrictions.

Because of the limited availability of transportation, the Postal Service must tailor acceptance procedures in order to reasonably believe that lives arrive at their destination in a viable condition. Towards this end, the following procedures are being implemented.

All shipments of live animals will be coordinated and cleared through the District Expedited Services Office (ESO). District Managers are to establish local operational procedures and acceptance-point guidelines to be followed by the ESO within each district. Mailers of lives will be instructed to call the ESO when they have a mailing. The ESO will then advise the mailer where the lives are to be deposited for mailing and will advise the accepting office when a lives mailing is to be expected.

In general, the ESO is to make every effort to accommodate the mailer's chosen point of deposit, but may direct a mailer to an acceptance point other than the mailer's preference, based on available transportation and, in the case of large-volume lives mailings, based on the capability of a retail site to handle large volumes.

The primary objectives are to assure the widespread availability of acceptance points for lives mailings and to accept every lives mailing for which there is available transportation and for which there is a reasonable expectation that the viability of the lives will be protected while in the postal system. Imposing significant restrictions on mailers or forcing small-volume mailers to travel long distances to deposit lives shipments is strongly discouraged and should be permitted only if there are no nearby, practical alternatives available.

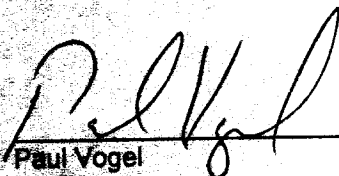
In order to inform the lives mailing industry, these procedures, including ESO phone numbers and an airport file that lists available origin and destination combinations for lives shipments, will be distributed to the major lives mailer organizations and will be posted on usps.com, as well as on the Postal Service's internal web (blue page).

To supplement these communications, district managers are to develop a communications plan under which the ESO will conduct an outreach to inform affected mailers in their districts of advance notification procedures, practical limitations, and acceptance options.

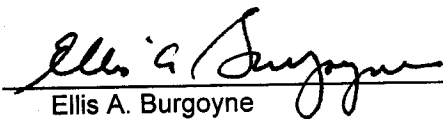
The ESOs are to use the airport information to help make a decision on acceptance points. In addition, ESOs are encouraged to consult with the Air Transportation Specialist at the origin Airport Mail Center, Airport Mail Facility, or Air Transfer Office for guidance. For use of surface transportation, ESOs should consider a four-hour time limit on the period during which animals (especially bees, day-old poultry, and adult birds) may move in a regular closed postal vehicle (see Publication 52, Sec. 521e) and should consider expected temperature in transit (Publication 52, Sec. 521c(2)).

Existing transportation surcharges applicable to the mailing of lives remain in effect.

Thank you for your cooperation.



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