

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE
EMERGENCY ORDER
(THIRD EXTENSION)

WHEREAS, on October 2, 2017, through Executive Order 17-259, the Governor of the State of Florida declared that due to the catastrophic damage in Puerto Rico caused by Hurricane Maria and the immeasurable needs to the people of Puerto Rico, a state of emergency exists in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on November 28, 2017, through Executive Order 17-304, the Governor extended Executive Order 17-259, declaring that the effects of Hurricane Maria pose a continuing threat to the health, safety and welfare of the State of Florida, its residents, and the families who evacuated from Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida, pursuant to Executive Order 17-259, Section 4, finds that the special duties and responsibilities resting upon some state agencies in responding to the emergency may require agencies to waive or deviate from the statutes, rules, ordinances and orders they administer; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida pursuant to Executive Order 17-259, Section 4(B) authorizes state agencies to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute or order or rules of that agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any such statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 585.08, Florida Statutes, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall adopt and enforce rules that govern the introduction of animals into or within the state including a requirement that all animals moved into the state be covered by an official certificate of veterinary inspection (OCVI); and

WHEREAS, Rules 5C-3.002(1), 5C-3.009(1), (3), and 5C-3.0012(1), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), contain specific requirements for OCIVs for animals imported into the state and requirements for proof of rabies vaccinations for dogs and cats; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the powers and authorities conferred by Executive Order 17-259, and due to the catastrophic impact of Hurricane Maria to Puerto Rico causing thousands of families to travel to Florida to escape the devastation, many of whom were arriving with dogs, cats and other small domestic animals and birds, I issued an Emergency Order suspending Rules 5C-3.002(1), 5C-3.009(1), (3), and 5C-3.0012(1), F.A.C., and subsequently extended the Emergency Order.

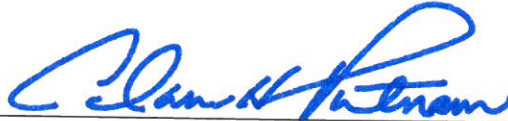
NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the powers and authorities conferred by Executive Order 17-304, I hereby extend the Emergency Order issued December 1, 2017, and declare the following rules are suspended for domestic dogs, cats, fowl, and other small mammals that are kept for non-commercial purposes and which are accompanied by their owners evacuating from Puerto Rico:

- (1) Rule 5C-3.002(1), F.A.C. – All animals OCVI/Health Certificates requirement;
- (2) Rule 5C-3.009(1) and (3), F.A.C. – Dogs and Cats OCVI/Health Certificates and rabies vaccination requirements; and
- (3) Rule 5C-3.0012(1), F.A.C. – Domestic Fowl OCVI/Health Certificates requirement.

All other provisions of Rule Chapter 5C-3, F.A.C. remain in effect.

This Order shall expire on the earlier of January 27, 2018, unless extended or rescinded by the Commissioner of Agriculture, or upon the rescission of Executive Order 17-304.

EXECUTED THIS 27th DAY OF DECEMBER 2017.



ADAM H. PUTNAM
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

