



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE**

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH**

JAMES WATSON
STATE VETERINARIAN

PRESS RELEASE

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MBAH Grants Certification for Santa's Reindeer to Enter Mississippi on December 24

JACKSON, Miss. – Today, the Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH) issued a certificate of veterinary inspection to Santa Claus of the North Pole, permitting Mr. Claus' reindeer entry to the state of Mississippi for an "annual business trip" the night of Christmas Eve, December 24.

"I am happy to announce that Santa's reindeer have been given clearance to travel to Mississippi tomorrow night to deliver Christmas wishes to all of the good boys and girls," said Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson. "I encourage children to get in bed early so Santa doesn't pass you by."

Dr. James Watson, State Veterinarian with MBAH, found all nine reindeer to be in perfect health and free of any illnesses that would prevent them from entering the state. Since the team of reindeer pulling Mr. Claus' sleigh met all the necessary requirements, Dr. Watson issued the special certification.

"Our agency is charged with protecting the health of Mississippi's livestock and poultry, and that is a job we take very seriously. So, I am delighted to let the public know that Santa Claus and his reindeer have all the proper certification needed to enter the great state of Mississippi and deliver packages to children who have made the nice list," said Dr. Watson. The MBAH encourages all Mississippians to leave out treats and milk for both Santa Claus and his hard-working reindeer Christmas Eve night.

The Board of Animal Health was created by the Mississippi Legislature and given plenary power to deal with all contagious and infectious diseases of animals as in the opinion of the board may be prevented, controlled, or eradicated, and with full power to make, promulgate, and enforce such rules and regulations as may be necessary to control, eradicate and prevent those diseases.

The Mississippi Board of Animal Health works closely with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) and is housed at the MDAC building headquarters in Jackson. To learn more about MBAH, visit www.mbah.ms.gov.

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Photo and certificate attached.



Dr. James Watson, State Veterinarian, signs a certificate of veterinary inspection to permit Santa Claus' reindeer to enter and exit the state of Mississippi on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024.

CONSIGNOR OR SHIPPER		CONSIGNEE OR RECEIVER		ORIGIN OF SHIPMENT (NAME):	
Kris Kringle 123 Elf Road, North Pole		Children of Mississippi		A. Show/Sale _____ B. Market _____ C. Other <u>North Pole Toy Shop</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cattle Breeding <input type="checkbox"/> Horses Foeding <input type="checkbox"/> Swine Show <input type="checkbox"/> Goats Slaughter <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Toy Delivery)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accredited Free TB <input type="checkbox"/> Modified Accredited TB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Free - Brucellosis <input type="checkbox"/> Class A - Brucellosis <input type="checkbox"/> Class B - Brucellosis <input type="checkbox"/> Class C - Brucellosis		<input type="checkbox"/> Accredited Herd No. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Herd No. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Validated Herd No. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Qualified Pseudorabies <input type="checkbox"/> No. animals in Shipment: <u>9</u>	
Individual ID: Official Eartag, Breed Registration Ear Tattoo, or Breed Registration Firebrand Description of Animal or Registry name and number Age Sex Breed		CERTIFICATE VOID 30 DAYS FROM ISSUE DATE ENTRY PERMIT NO. 12-24-2024 CARRIER: _____ Truck <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air _____ Rail _____ Water		Brucellosis Test Date TB Test Inj. EIA OTHER TESTS PRV Other Lab Obs. Date Date Date Results 72 Hr. Results Results Results Results Equine Temp.	
1 840030000001 Dasher F Reindeer 2 840030000002 Dancer F Reindeer 3 840030000003 Prancer F Reindeer 4 840030000004 Vixon F Reindeer 5 840030000005 Comet F Reindeer 6 840030000006 Cupid F Reindeer 7 840030000007 Donner F Reindeer 8 840030000008 Blitzen F Reindeer 9 840030000009 Rudolph F Reindeer 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19		CERTIFICATE OF ISSUING VETERINARIAN I certify as an accredited veterinarian that the described animals have been inspected by me and that they are not showing signs of infection, contagious and/or communicable disease (except where noted). The vaccination and results of tests are as indicated on the certificate. To the best of my knowledge, the animals listed on this certificate meet the state of destination and Federal interstate requirements. No further warranty is made or implied. <u>James Watson, DVM</u> Accredited Veterinarian (Signature) Address <u>121 N. Jefferson St</u> License No. <u># 678</u> Phone No. <u>601-359-1170</u>		CERTIFICATE OF OWNER/AGENT The animals in this shipment are those certified to and listed on this certificate. <u>Santa Claus</u> Owner/Agent (Signature)	

Copy of Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.