

introduction, or a species is brought in, it has to be checked before it is on en route when it does come in?

SENATOR DIERKS: The...currently, that is true. It has to be tested for brucellosis and tuberculosis and that will remain true, but those are requirements of the Department of Agriculture, rather than the Game and Parks Commission.

SENATOR AVERY: Okay, so we are looking at and hopefully trying to cover any potential disease problems, and...

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, that is true. The other thing that you have to remember is that nationally we have about got brucellosis eradicated, and when that happens, I would imagine that the demands for testing might be changed. And so as we eradicate these diseases and as we eliminate tuberculosis, for instance, which may be a long time down the road because we had it eliminated at one time and now we have some problems with it again, but when these things occur, we are able to eradicate them in Nebraska. Sometimes if the state, you know, depends on reciprocity agreements we have with other states. A lot of things can happen, so what I...it is pretty hard to make a general statement about that, but I think that what I told you is true.

SENATOR AVERY: Okay, and, also, I think isn't it true that the impoundments, the structures that they are in, or they can be held within are very secure, as usually there is restrictions, they have to be checked out?

SENATOR DIERKS: You know I am not sure about that. I think that the testing requirements were supposed to take place prior to their coming here. Quite possibly, if they were doing two tests, they might have required a test prior to import, and then another one after being imported, but I am not really sure about that particular provision. So if they were, before they are brought into this state, I am sure they are held in a very tight confinement. After that they are tested in another state, but how that is handled here I am not sure.

SENATOR AVERY: Okay. One point that I would like to make is that there are animals that get loose, and anytime these get loose, you have a potential ecological damage. The problem is, and I...