

Regulations for Importing Pets, Customs and Pet Quarantine Requirement

Anguilla

Pet import requirements: an original Health Certificate issued by a vet in the country of origin stating that animal should be free of any infectious or contagious diseases and should not be in contact with any animal suffering from the same for the past sixty (60) days; animal must be vaccinated against rabies more than one(1) month but less than one (1) year before the date of importation. Permit is only valid for one (1) month.

Antigua and Barbuda

To bring your dog and/or cat into Antigua, you must apply for a Veterinary Import License from the Veterinary & Livestock Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Antigua & Barbuda. The Country of origin will determine the procedure that is taken. If the country of origin is a rabies infected country such as the USA and Canada, requirements are a Valid Certification of Rabies Vaccination (rabies vaccine within 1 year of importation) and Certification of Microchipping.

Aruba

Cats and dogs from the United States are required to have the following upon arrival in Aruba: A veterinary health certificate issued from the originating country a maximum of 14 days prior to arrival; and a rabies inoculation certificate issued within 30 days prior to arrival.

Australia

Australia has a highly favourable animal health status and is free from a number of cat and dog diseases. In order to protect this status, cats and dogs entering Australia are required to undertake a period of quarantine on arrival. This quarantine period allows the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) to monitor the animal's health and become aware of any disease concerns prior to the animal's release into Australia. The length of time in Australian quarantine can vary depending on the country of export and the pre-entry preparations involved. AQIS operates three animal quarantine stations that are equipped to accommodate cats and dogs: Eastern Creek Quarantine Station (Sydney, New South Wales); Spotswood Quarantine Station (Melbourne, Victoria); Byford Quarantine

Station (Perth, Western Australia). All import permits for dogs arriving from the USA (not including Hawaii) will be issued with a condition that vaccination for Bordetella bronchiseptica (kennel cough) is mandatory. Copies of all vaccination certificates/records, endorsed by an official veterinarian in the exporting country, must accompany the animal when it arrives in Australia.

Austria

For dogs, cats, and ferrets: each animal entering the EU from a third country while travelling with a private person has to be identified and it has to be vaccinated against rabies. A certificate has to be carried along for each animal. Also, a serological test for rabies (titration test) is required for each animal that does not originate from a third country entered into the specific third country list in Annex II of Reg.(EC) No. 998/2003. Each animal has to be identified: After July 3, 2011 animals may only be identified by microchip. Tattoos applied before July 3, 2011 remain valid as long as they are clearly readable. Identification has to take place before anti-rabies vaccination.

Bahamas

An import permit is required from the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources (Nassau) for all animals being brought into any island. The permit is valid for one year from the date of issue. Applications for such permits, stating the kind of animal, breed, age, sex and country of embarkation (along with a \$10 processing fee), must be made in writing to the Director of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Trade and Industry, P.O. Box N-3704, Nassau, The Bahamas. For more information, call 242-325-7502 or 325-7509.

Barbados

Dogs and cats may only be imported directly (without quarantine) into Barbados from the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Antigua and Barbuda. At present, the laws of Barbados do not permit the direct importation of animals (cats and dogs) from other countries because of concerns over the transmission of rabies. Instead, animals are required to be quarantined in the United Kingdom for six months. Additional

information on the importation of animals and birds may be obtained from the Veterinary Services Department, The Pine, St Michael, Barbados.

Belize

Domestic pets will be allowed to enter the country provided that owners present the following: valid import permit from Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA); recent veterinary certificate of health (14 days); a valid rabies certificate, not less than one month or more than one year prior to the date of importation into Belize. Quarantine inspection at the port of entry is required for all dogs and cats. Dogs and cats coming from countries considered of risk (for example, there is the risk of screwworm in dogs and cats coming from South America) will need to undergo veterinary inspection at the port of entry. There is an additional fee for veterinary inspection.

Bermuda

All animals arriving in Bermuda must be accompanied by an Import Permit that was issued in advance by the Department of Environmental Protection, together with an original of a health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian of the country from which the animal is coming to Bermuda. The health certificate and veterinary statements must be issued within 10 days before the animal's arrival in Bermuda, must be dated, must show the name, address and phone number of the veterinary facility, and must be signed by a licensed veterinarian. You must provide evidence that your animal complies with all of import requirements before an Import Permit will be issued. Certain dog breeds may be prohibited.

Brazil

Pet dogs and cats may enter Brazil only upon presentation of an International animal health certificate APHIS 7001, issued in the area of origin of the animal. The traveler must also present a certificate of rabies vaccination. An import permit from Brazil is required for pet birds and any other pets other than dogs and cats

British Virgin Islands

A permit is required to import or export animals (including pets). Animals must have import or export certificates and appropriate vaccination and veterinary health certificates. For regulations governing animal

importation, contact the Department of Agriculture, Paraquita Bay, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Tel: (284) 495-2532 or Fax: (284) 495-1269.

Canada: Importing or Traveling with Pets

Pet cats and dogs can be imported into Canada for any period of time without quarantine from any country; however, there are different requirements for cats entering from either rabies-free countries or from those countries that Canada does not consider to be free of rabies.

Pet cats and dogs must be accompanied by a valid rabies vaccination certificate, which is issued by a licensed veterinarian(2), in either English or French and which clearly identifies the cats or dogs and states that they are currently vaccinated against rabies. This certificate should identify the animal as in breed, colour, weight, etc., and indicate the name of the licensed rabies vaccine used (trade name), including serial number and the duration of immunity (otherwise, it will be considered valid for one year from the date of vaccination). Cats and dogs do not require a rabies vaccination or certification if they are less than three (3) months of age at the time they are imported into Canada. Cats and dogs three (3) months of age or older arriving from a country officially recognized by Canada as being rabies free do not have to be vaccinated against rabies, although vaccination is strongly recommended.

Canadian Customs does not require you to have a health certificate for your pet, but if the animal is travelling to Canada by air, the commercial airline may require a health certificate. Contact your airline for additional information on their requirements.

Ontario Canada Pit Bull Ban

Canada: Exporting Pets (Dogs, Cats, Ferrets) - Animal Health Certificates

If you are planning an export, please contact the Animal Health Offices in your area to verify that the health certificate is valid, that it applies to your export, and that there are no disease outbreaks or other events that may cause exports to be suspended.

Cayman Islands

No dog or cat will be allowed entry into the Cayman Islands unless it is at least ten (10) months old. An Import Permit application for dogs and cats must be completed and submitted with an official health certificate of the pet(s), a rabies laboratory titre report and the processing fee for the import

permit. However, the following procedures must be carried out in order: The pet must first be permanently identified with a microchip transponder or tattoo; the pet must be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian using an approved inactivated vaccine; a blood test must be taken not less than thirty (30) days after the vaccination to check for protective antibodies against rabies. The pet will be eligible for entry into the Cayman Islands six (6) months after the date of the blood test that gave a successful result.

China

Travelers to China can bring only one pet dog or cat into the Chinese mainland. Other species of pets will be barred from entering. The country's inspection and quarantine authorities will also put dogs and cats in two categories: rabies-infected areas and non-rabies areas. Those from regions where rabies is a problem will be quarantined for 30 days while those from non-rabies areas will be isolated for seven days.

Columbia

All dogs or cats must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian and endorsed by a Veterinary Services (VS) veterinarian.

Costa Rica

The dog or cat must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian, and endorsed by a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) veterinarian. That endorsement needs to be done by the APHIS Veterinary Services Area Office in your home state. The examination for the certificate must be conducted within 2 weeks of the departure date. For dogs, proof of vaccination against distemper, hepatitis, Leptospirosis, parvovirus and rabies is required. For cats, proof of vaccination against rabies is required. The official rabies vaccination certificate must accompany the health documents and is valid for the period of the vaccine (1 or 3 years).

Dominican Republic

All animals arriving in the Dominican Republic animals must be accompanied by a health certificate issued and signed by a licensed

veterinarian. The certificate must show the animal was examined within 30 days prior to departure and found to be free of any infectious diseases, and treated for external and internal parasites; and the animal was vaccinated against rabies. (The rabies vaccination Certificate should include date of vaccination, established period of immunity, product name and serial number.)

[European Union \(EU\)](#)

The Member States of the European Union are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, the Republic of Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Pet dogs, cats, and ferrets must be identified with a microchip compatible with ISO standard 11784 or 11785 or the appropriate microchip reader must be provided along with the pet. Microchip implantation must occur PRIOR to rabies vaccination. Any rabies vaccination that occurs prior to microchip implantation is not considered valid regardless of whether the animal was up-to-date on its previous rabies vaccines. In this case, the animal must be revaccinated. 21 days must have elapsed after the first (primary) vaccination after implantation of the microchip before the animal is eligible to enter the European Union. A rabies vaccination is considered primary if either: (1) an animal was up-to-date on its rabies vaccination but vaccination occurred prior to microchip implantation, (2) vaccination was not carried out within the period of validity of a previous vaccination, or (3) the animal was vaccinated for the first time. Rabies vaccination is not required for pet dogs, cats and ferrets under 3 months of age, but not all EU Member States allow import of such animals. Import of unvaccinated animals must be authorized by the EU Member State.

[Fiji](#)

Cats and dogs may be imported directly into Fiji BY AIR only from the following countries: Australia; Hawaii; New Zealand. Please note there are no exceptions to this list. If you wish to import your animals from a country that is not listed, you may do so by first exporting the animals to one of the above countries, satisfying ALL their quarantine requirements and then applying to re-export the animals to Fiji from that country. All of Fiji's quarantine requirements will then have to be fulfilled for importing from

this country. The conditions of importation including the period of quarantine differ for all of the countries listed above. It is a minimum of seven days if imported from Australia and New Zealand, and a minimum of thirty days if imported from Hawaii. All imported dogs and cats will be quarantined at the government Post-entry station located in Koronivia, near Nausori (Fiji). HOME QUARANTINE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

France

In order to bring their dogs, cats and ferrets from the United States into France, travelers must abide by the following conditions: Every animal must be identified by a microchip (standard ISO 11784 or annex A ISO standard 11785) or a tattoo and must have a valid rabies vaccination. Pets under three months old and not vaccinated against rabies are not allowed to enter into France. The animal is allowed to enter into France 21 days after its first full anti-rabies vaccination.

Germany

When traveling to Germany directly from the United States with dogs, cats or ferrets, you are required to have a health certificate issued by an official veterinarian in accordance with the EU uniform sample, as well as supporting documents, such as a vaccination certificate. Pet dogs, cats, and ferrets must be identified with a microchip compatible with ISO standard 11784 or 11785 or the appropriate microchip reader must be provided along with the pet. Microchip implantation must occur PRIOR to rabies vaccination.

Honduras

Dogs, cats and other animals must be accompanied by veterinarian health certificate issued at point of origin, and an import permit from the "Direccion General de Ganaderia y Veterinaria" (General Direction for Cattle Breeding and Veterinary Services). Dogs also require an additional rabies vaccination certificate and distemper and hepatitis certificates.

Hong Kong

Quarantine for pets varies from 0-6 months subject to their history and vaccination records. You may bring your cat, dog or bird into Hong Kong with a minimum amount of fuss if you are coming from a Category I or Category II country. Animals from a Category III country must go through

quarantine at the owner's expense. For importing your pets to Hong Kong, you need to obtain in advance a special import permit from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. It usually takes 5 working days to process the application from the date of receipt of permit fee to the date of issue, subject to provision of all required information. Overseas applicants may nominate a person or agent in Hong Kong to apply for the permit on their behalf to minimize inconvenience and to expedite urgent applications.

India

As of April 2013, the import of two pet animals as baggage shall be allowed only to persons who transfer their residence to India after two years of continuous stay abroad.

Ireland

The EU system of [Passports for Pets](#) allows cats, dogs and ferrets to travel between EU member states. This EU Pet Passport certifies that the pet has been identified by means of a microchip and vaccinated against rabies. Pets from higher risk non-EU countries will also require a blood test. Cats or dogs from [qualifying low-risk countries](#) (including the US, Canada, and Mexico) must undergo the following in this order: Be microchipped (this must be done before anything else); Be vaccinated for rabies subsequently; Have a Veterinary Certificate issued or endorsed by the competent authority in the country of origin; Dogs must be treated for tapeworm between 24 and 120 hours before travel and the time and date of treatment must be entered on the passport. Treatment for ticks is not compulsory but it is advisable to get it at the same time as the tapeworm treatment.

Jamaica

Jamaica is a rabies-free country; no dog or cat shall be imported into Jamaica unless it was born and bred in Great Britain, Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland and has not been vaccinated. This applies to Guide Dogs also. Dogs and Cats vaccinated against rabies are not allowed entry into Jamaica.

Japan

On arrival in Japan dogs and cats from countries designated as rabies-free -- Iceland, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii, Guam -- must undergo import

quarantine for a set period to screen out rabies (and in the case of dogs, rabies and leptospirosis), depending on conditions. Furthermore, in order to check whether they have contracted the diseases in isolation from other animals or humans, the animals are held in the quarantine facilities of the Animal Quarantine Service (AQS). Please bear in mind that even when a long quarantine period is necessary, quarantine cannot be allowed at any place other than the premises of AQS.

When trying to import dogs or cats, you must submit Advance Notification of the planned date of arrival, number of animals and other items to the Animal Quarantine Service which has jurisdiction over your intended port of arrival at least 40 days prior to arrival in Japan. Please note that you may be requested to change the date or place of import depending on the availability situation of quarantine facilities at the Animal Quarantine Service.

For a dog or cat from a designated region (rabies-free country or region), if you have a certificate for the animal issued by the responsible government agency of the country of export containing necessary information such as the microchip number for individual identification, the quarantine period will be completed within 12 hours.

For dogs and cats from regions other than designated regions, you must submit Advance Notification of the planned date of arrival, number of animals and other items to the Animal Quarantine Service which has jurisdiction over your intended port of arrival at least 40 days prior to arrival in Japan. Please note that you may be requested to change the date or place of import depending on the availability situation of quarantine facilities at the Animal Quarantine Service. If you have a certificate for the animal issued by the responsible government agency of the country of export containing necessary information such as the microchip number for individual identification, dates of rabies vaccinations and rabies antibody levels as well as stating that the animal underwent 180 days wait in the country of export, the quarantine period will be completed within 12 hours. In all other cases the quarantine period will be up to 180 days.

[Latvia](#)

Upon bringing animals into Latvia, it is necessary to have an internationally recognized veterinary certificate attesting to the general health of the pet(s) as well as to the immunization and vaccination record (for dogs: against rabies, canine distemper, infectious canine hepatitis, and canine

parvoviral infection; for cats: against rabies and feline infectious panleucopenia). The certificate must be in Latvian, English or Russian.

Malaysia

All pets imported to Malaysia must have a valid import license, be accompanied by a valid certificate giving a full description or identification of the animal, be identified by an ISO compliant microchip, be at least three months old at the time of import, and be accompanied by a Veterinary Health Certificate. Dogs and cats imported from scheduled countries -- United Kingdom, Ireland, Northern Ireland, New Zealand, Japan, Brunei, Singapore -- are exempt from quarantine. Animals imported from non-scheduled countries are placed in an approved quarantine area for at least seven days. This period may be extended if the animal is considered at risk. The animal is released if found to be free from infection. Animals imported from Australia are placed in an approved quarantine area for at least ten days, where the animal is given an anti-rabies vaccination and health tests are carried out. The animal is released when found to be free from infection.

Mexico

Dogs and cats traveling from the U.S. to Mexico must be accompanied by either a) An APHIS Form 7001 health certificate (HC) issued and signed by a USDA accredited veterinarian within 10 days prior to export. The certification statements (#2 and 3 below) need to be included on or with the 7001. The two statements should be in English and Spanish. The 7001 must be signed and sealed by a Veterinary Services veterinarian, OR b) The HC issued and signed by an accredited veterinarian on their letterhead certificate that includes the accreditation number of the signing veterinarian. The certificate must be issued within 10 days of export. The HC must contain the following information: 1. the name and address of the importer and exporter. When the exporter and importer is the owner, the home address and the destination address of the owner of the pet must be given, and 2. animal(s) has been vaccinated against rabies. Indicate the vaccination and expiration dates of the rabies vaccine. Animals younger than three months are exempted from this requirement.

There are special requirements for dogs and cats residing in the US border states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas: a) Pets traveling between the United States and Mexico will be allowed with a HC endorsed

by Veterinary Services or a HC issued and signed by a licensed veterinarian residing at the border zone of the U.S. or Mexico. In this case the licensed veterinarian must use his letterhead and must write his license number in the certificate, and b) The health certificate will be valid for 6 months. For more information on traveling with pets to Mexico [click here](#)

New Zealand

If arriving from any country other than Australia, you'll need an import permit (plan ahead!) and your animal will be quarantined for a minimum of ten days. Importantly, certain dog breeds are banned and will be refused entry. And you may not import birds, ferrets, guinea pigs, mice & rats (except laboratory animals), reptiles and snakes. Live animals may not enter New Zealand without meeting specific conditions. These will depend on the type of animal and country of origin. Entry conditions are described in the appropriate Import Health Standard (IHS) for the animal you wish to import. A Permit to Import may be required and animals may have to undergo Post Entry Quarantine at a MAF approved facility. Some animals may be prohibited due to their protected status (see the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species). If your animal does need to be quarantined you must, before applying for a Permit to Import, contact a quarantine facility in New Zealand to reserve a space for your animal(s). From January 2, 2012, cats and dogs from the UK, Malta, Republic of Ireland, and Sweden will be required to have a rabies vaccination and rabies titre test

Philippines

Singapore

To import your pets (e.g. dogs, cats, ornamental birds, rabbits, guinea pigs etc), you must first obtain an import permit from the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) within 30 days prior to the date of arrival. Application for the permit can be made with the online form.

South Africa

A Veterinary Import Permit is needed to import dogs and cats into South Africa. Cats are not routinely quarantined on arrival in South Africa. The cat must however have a valid import permit and a correctly completed health

certificate, signed and stamped by a government veterinarian of the exporting country. If the originals of both the Veterinary Import Permit (VIP) and the Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC) are not available at the time of the cat's arrival in South Africa, the cat will be kept in quarantine until the required documentation is presented at the quarantine station. Dogs and cats must have a valid rabies vaccination. In the case of primary (first) rabies vaccination the vaccination must be given not more than 12 months and not less than 30 days before the date of import. In the case of a booster rabies vaccination the vaccination must be given not more than 12 months before the date of import. Quarantine of 14 days will be imposed on some dogs, depending on the country of origin of the dog. Dogs from the U.S. and Canada do not need to go into quarantine on arrival in South Africa.

St. Kitts & Nevis

St. Lucia

You must obtain a Veterinary Import Permit before entering St. Lucia. This may be arranged for by contacting the Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Department and must also adhere to the following requirements:

- The cat/dog must be electronically identifiable by having had an acceptable type of microchip implanted. Microchips must conform to ISO standard 11784.
- The cat/dog must be vaccinated against rabies at or over three months of age using inactivated and adjuvant vaccine approved by the veterinary authority of the exporting country.
- A blood test must be carried out not less than 30 days after the date the vaccination was done.
- The blood sample must be sent to an approved laboratory facility. In order to qualify for permission, the blood test must show a rabies antibody titre equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/ml. The blood test reflecting successful results must have been done not more than 24 months prior to importation. Your pet will not be allowed entrance until 6 months have passed from the date that your vet took the blood sample which led to a successful result. The original copy of the laboratory result must accompany the Health Certificate.
- The cat/dog must be accompanied by a valid Veterinary Health Certificate.

[Switzerland](#)

Dogs, cats and ferrets must be vaccinated against rabies according to the recommendations of the vaccine manufacturer. The vaccination must have been carried out at least 21 days before import using an inactivated vaccine with an efficacy corresponding to at least one international antigen unit (WHO standard). In the case of animals which have been vaccinated several times, the waiting period of 21 days does not apply if the animals always received booster vaccinations within the period specified by the vaccine manufacturer.

[Trinidad and Tobago](#)

All animals entering Trinidad and Tobago must have an import permit which must be applied for well in advance of travel and can take several months for pets to qualify for entry into the country. There are three categories of entry for dogs and cats into Trinidad and Tobago. Direct entry without quarantine; Entry with 6 months quarantine; Entry with at least 1 month quarantine. Dogs and cats originating from the U.S. or Canada now have an option for reduced quarantine of thirty (30) days.

[United Kingdom \(UK\)](#)

All pet dogs, cats and ferrets (including guide and hearing dogs) can enter or re-enter the UK from any country in the world without quarantine provided they meet the rules of the [Pet Travel Scheme \(PETS\)](#), which will be different depending on the country or territory the pet is coming from. Animals which do not meet all the rules must be licensed into quarantine until they are compliant. Dogs, cats and ferrets entering the UK under the Pet Travel Scheme may only do so on approved routes.

[Heathrow Airport Guide - Pet Travel Scheme](#)

If your pet is a dog, cat or ferret, you can benefit from the Pet Travel Scheme which enables these pets to move between EU and listed countries with relative ease and without quarantine, once you have complied with the requirements. In December 2014, the rules are changing to further define these animals - *canis lupis familiaris* (dog), *felis silvestris catus* (cat), and *mustela putorius furo* (ferret). These terms do not, however, cover hybrid animals, including bengal cats and wolfdogs. The Pet Travel Scheme is valid for countries in the EU and specified listed countries.

[United States \(including US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico but not Hawaii\)](#)

CDC regulations govern the importation of animals and animal products capable of causing human disease. Pets taken out of the United States are subject upon return, to the same regulations as those entering for the first time.

The CDC does not require general certificates of health for pets for entry into the United States. However, health certificates may be required for entry into some states, or may be required by airlines for pets. You should check with officials in your state of destination and with your airline prior to your travel date.

Proof of Rabies Vaccination:

Dogs must have a certificate showing they have been vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days prior to entry into the United States. These requirements apply equally to service animals such as Seeing Eye dogs. Cats are not required to have proof of rabies vaccination for importation into the United States. However, some states require vaccination of cats for rabies, so it is a good idea to check with state and local health authorities at your final destination.

Importation of Unvaccinated Dogs

Dogs not accompanied by proof of rabies vaccination, including those that are too young to be vaccinated (i.e. less than 3 months of age), may be admitted if the importer completes a confinement agreement and confines the animal until it is considered adequately vaccinated against rabies (the vaccine is not considered effective until 30 days after the date of vaccination).

Unvaccinated dogs may be imported without a requirement for proof of rabies vaccination if they have been located for a minimum of 6 months or more in countries that are free of rabies.

[Restricted Animals - Monkeys](#)

Monkeys and other nonhuman primates (NHP) may not be imported as pets under any circumstances.

[United States - Alaska](#)

All animals are required to have a current Health Certificate to enter the state of Alaska. These animals require a current rabies vaccination if three (3) months of age or older and a small animal health certificate within 30 days of import.

United States - Hawaii

Dogs and cats meeting specific pre- and post-arrival requirements may qualify for 5-day-or-less quarantine program, which has a provision for direct release at Honolulu International Airport after inspection. Dogs and cats not meeting all of the specific 5-Day-Or-Less program requirements must be quarantined for up to 120 days upon arrival in Hawaii.

U.S. State Regulations for Importing Animals

Find pet import regulations for a particular state.