

Guide to importing dogs, cat and other animals subject to animal quarantine from designated regions into Japan
(Final revision: January, 2012)

Animal Quarantine Service,
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, JAPAN

Designated regions: Taiwan, Iceland, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii, Guam (As of January 20, 2012)

***ATTENTION: Ireland, Sweden, Norway (except Svalbard, Jan Mayen and dependencies out of Europe), and United Kingdom(Great Britain & Northern Ireland only)** harmonised their pet movement rules with the rest of the EU from January 1, 2012. Based on this change, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan changed the status of these countries from designated regions to regions other than the designated regions.

The dogs and cats from these countries must be subject to the requirements of the regions other than the designated regions after December 31, 2011*. Some interim measures could be taken to the dogs and cats meet specific conditions from January 1, 2012* to July 31, 2012. **For details, please contact the Animal Quarantine Service.**

(*: In case of Norway, after January 19, 2012)

Dogs, cats, foxes, raccoons, and skunks (hereafter, referred to as “pet(s)” or “animal(s)”) imported into Japan must undergo import quarantine, in accordance with the Rabies Prevention Law (and in case of dogs, also the Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control Law). On condition that the following criteria have been fulfilled on arrival in Japan, the quarantine period for a pet will be up to 12 hours. Any pet that has not fulfilled these criteria will be kept at an Animal Quarantine Service for the necessary quarantine period (up to 180 days). Depending on the results of import inspection, import of the pets may not be allowed.

This guide explains the necessary preliminary treatments and procedures, and import quarantine and related issues on arrival in Japan for pets imported from the designated regions above.

Pets or animals as defined in this document: dogs, cats, foxes, skunks, raccoons (see section 7 for species list)

Certifications from the responsible government agency of the exporting country: In accordance with this guide, the importer shall obtain certificate(s) issued by the responsible government agency of the exporting country. We suggest using Japan’s recommended forms (Form A, Form B, ANNEX). Form A, Form B and ANNEX can be obtained from the Animal Quarantine Service (<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/>). (See sections 1 (4) and (5) for details.)

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In order for the quarantine to be completed within 12 hours, a pet that arrives in Japan must meet all of the conditions in parts 1 and 2. Any pet that does not meet any of the conditions of parts 1 and 2 will undergo a detention inspection at an Animal Quarantine Service for the necessary quarantine detention period (up to 180 days). Depending on the results of import inspection, import of the pets may not be allowed.

1. Preparation before import

(1) and (4) below must be stated on the certificate issued by the responsible exporting country government agency. We advise that you first obtain the certification forms recommended by Japan (Form A, Form B), then have the veterinarian who treated the animal fill in the necessary items, and finally obtain endorsement from the responsible exporting country government agency. The recommended certification forms can be obtained from the Animal Quarantine Service (<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/>).

(1) Microchip implanting

Your pet needs to be implanted with a microchip that is compliant with International Standards Organization (ISO) standards 11784 and 11785. Please follow the manufacturer's instructions for the implanting position and be sure to confirm that the microchip has been properly inserted after implantation. Furthermore, at the times of rabies vaccination, blood sampling for serological test for rabies antibody, and clinical inspection before departure, make sure to have the microchip number read by a reader to identify the individual. For microchips, whether already implanted or newly done, that are not ISO (11784 and 11785) standard compliant, the importer is required to provide a reader at the time of import so that the microchip number can be confirmed.

The microchip number shall be noted on the certificate from the responsible exporting country government agency (see 1 (5)). During import inspection at the time of arrival in Japan, if the microchip number is not confirmed or the microchip number is not the same as that on the inspection certificate, the animal will be subject to a 180-day quarantine period or the import may not be allowed.

(2) Advance notification

Any person intending to import an animal covered by this document (hereafter, "importer") must submit a notification to the Animal Quarantine Service with jurisdiction over the airport (seaport) of planned arrival, at least 40 days before the arrival of the ship or airplane carrying the animal by FAX or mail. For dogs, this should be a "NOTIFICATION OF IMPORT INSPECTION OF DOG", and for other animals, this should be a "NOTIFICATION OF IMPORT OF ANIMALS UNDER THE RABIES PREVENTION LAW." If there is a change or additional information to be provided, a "Modification on notification of import of animals" should also be submitted". Notification and Modification on Notification forms are available from the Animal Quarantine Service (<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/>). The Animal Quarantine Service may contact the importer about the quarantine plan. Please clearly indicate contact information (telephone number, fax number and/or e-mail address) on the Notification. (For the Animal Quarantine Service with jurisdiction over the airport (seaport) of arrival please refer to part 5.)

In addition, please inform us at the time of providing the Notification if the importer desires to put the animals that are to be kept in quarantine for more than 12 hours after arrival in Japan at a Animal Quarantine Service detention facility other than that of the Animal Quarantine Service with jurisdiction over the airport (seaport) of arrival. (For detention facility locations, please refer to part 3(2).)

(3) Approval of import inspection of animals

When the Notification is received, the Animal Quarantine Service will issue the importer an "Approval of import inspection of animals", which will normally be sent to the person by FAX, e-mail or mail who submitted the Notification. If the Notification needs be sent to another party, please inform us at the time of submission.

At the time of pet import, the receipt number will be necessary, so please make a careful note of it.

And you will be required to show the Approval of import inspection of animals by the airline / ship staff when you check in or you ship your pets.

(4) Clinical inspection before departure

Before departure (2 days or less before boarding if possible), have a veterinarian give the pet a clinical inspection to confirm that it does not have or is not suspected of having rabies (in case of dogs, rabies and leptospirosis) (refer to section 1 (5)).

(5) Obtaining a health certificate from the responsible exporting country government agency

The importer shall obtain a health certificate issued by the responsible exporting country government agency and submit it to the Animal Quarantine Service at the time of arrival in Japan. If the certification is signed only by a private veterinarian who conducted the clinical check or the treatments, an endorsement from the responsible exporting country government agency (signature of the government veterinarian, name and seal or stamp of the agency, signed date) must be provided by the time of arrival in Japan otherwise the certification will not be considered valid. For certification, we advise the use of the forms recommended by Japan (Form A, Form B). These certification forms are available from the Animal Quarantine Service (<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/>).

【Main Certification Items】

- ① Microchip number (standard, number, date of insertion, insertion position)
- ② Kept for the past 180 days (or since birth) in the exporting country, or kept only in designated regions since export from Japan
- ③ Not infected nor suspected of being infected with rabies (for dogs, rabies and leptospirosis)
- ④ No occurrence of rabies in the exporting country in the past 2 years
- ⑤ Immunizations for diseases other than rabies and parasite treatment (dates of treatments, address and name of the veterinarian who administered the treatments, vaccine effectiveness period, product names)
- ⑥ Transport cage seal number (refer to 1 (6))

※ For pets that were kept for less than 180 days in the exporting country before arrival in Japan

The date of entry into the exporting country and the names of the countries (regions) where the animal had been before shall be clearly indicated on the certificate issued by the responsible exporting country government agency. If the animal was in countries (regions) other than the designated regions, it will be detained in an Animal Quarantine Service to make up for the incomplete part of the 180-day residency period after arrival in Japan. For details, please inquire with the Animal Quarantine Service at the time of submission of the Animal Import Notification.

(6) Transport

Please transport your pet from the exporting country by airplane or ship that travels directly to Japan without stopping at ports in any other country. It is not absolutely necessary that the pet transport cage be sealed, but do not let the pet come into contact with other people or susceptible animals during transport.

A pet that cannot travel by direct flight or shipping requires a sealed transport cage or an additional certification (ANNEX). Please transport the animal in one of the manners specified below. Moreover, if the cage is sealed, the seal number, mark or other indicator must have been stated on an inspection certificate issued by the responsible exporting country government agency. The recommended form for additional certification (ANNEX) can be obtained from the Animal Quarantine Service (<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/>).

A) *Transport by land from the exporting country to a third country airport (seaport) to load on an airplane or ship*

The transport cage shall be sealed before leaving the exporting country. In addition, please have the animal quarantine agency, customs, the airline company or another official body certify that the seal has not been broken before loading.

B) *Transfer to a different airplane in a third country after loading on an airplane in the exporting country*

Before leaving the exporting country seal the transport cage, or have the animal quarantine agency, customs, the airline company or another official body certify the name of the airport of transfer and that the pet was not taken out of that airport and wasn't in contact with other susceptible animals.

C) *Transport from the exporting country by ship making calls in seaports outside the designated regions*

Before leaving the exporting country seal the transport cage, or have the ship's captain or other authority certify the names of the locations of the visited seaports and that the pet did not leave the ship at these seaports and didn't have contact with other susceptible animals.

At the time of arrival in Japan, if the above requirements cannot be verified (for example, the seal is broken, or the seal form does not correspond with the inspection certificate, etc.), the pet will be held in detention at an Animal Quarantine Service Service for the required quarantine detention period (up to 180 days).

2. Recommended treatments and measures

We recommend the following measures for pets that are to be imported into Japan. In particular, for pets that will be kept for quarantine for more than 12 hours after arrival in Japan, we strongly recommend immunizations and parasite treatment in advance of arrival for the health of the animals and sanitary control at the Station.

(1) Immunization

We recommend that the following immunizations be given to dogs and cats that are 91 days old or older 30 days prior to their arrival in Japan (within the vaccine immunization effectiveness period).

Dogs: distemper, contagious hepatitis (Adenovirus type II acceptable), parvovirus infectious disease trivalent vaccine (parainfluenza, leptospirosis, coronavirus infectious disease immunizations are also suggested)

Cats: feline viral rhinotracheitis, feline calicivirus, feline panleukopenia trivalent vaccine

In case of animals under 91 days old, consult the veterinarian and undertake inoculation as much as possible, at the times and at the frequency that the animals can benefit from immunization.

(2) Parasite treatment

We recommend the following parasite treatments before departure (no more than 4 days before boarding).

External parasites: Treat with medicines effective against mites and fleas, and at the time of export have a clinical inspection to confirm that the animal is free from these parasites.

Internal parasites: administer medicine effective against nematodes and tapeworms.

(3) Transport cage

We recommend the following to avoid unwelcome happenings like injury or escape, and to ensure safe and comfortable transport.

- Put each animal in a separate transport cage whenever possible.
- Make sure that the transport cage complies with International Air Transport Association (IATA) guidelines, and that the animal can freely stand, sit, lie down, sleep and turn around, and that the cage has sufficient openings for air circulation. Furthermore, the animal should not be able to put its nose or paws through the openings or wire mesh and the cage should be constructed to prevent escape.

(4) Scheduled arrival communication

In order to make arrival procedures go smoothly, 1 to 4 days before arrival in Japan, contact the Animal Quarantine Service with jurisdiction over the scheduled arrival airport (seaport) by telephone, fax or e-mail and provide the advance notification receipt number, flight number (ship name), scheduled arrival airport (seaport) and scheduled arrival time information.

(5) Health condition for transport and quarantine

The following types of pets are not suited to transport and detention, so we can't recommend importation. If importation is unavoidable, please consult with your veterinarian beforehand about whether the animal can endure transport and detention.

- weak infants and old animals
- pregnant and lactating animals
- animals that have a history of illness, are currently receiving medication (other than for parasite treatment), or have injuries, etc.

3. Import quarantine

(1) Arrival inspection

Upon the arrival of a pet in Japan, the importer must immediately submit the import inspection application form to the Animal Quarantine Service that has jurisdiction over the arrival airport (seaport), and the pet must undergo import quarantine. At this time, please present the certification issued by the exporting country government agency and other necessary documents. An animal quarantine officer of the Animal Quarantine Service will examine the documents and check the pet. The quarantine period for pets that can be individually identified and that can be verified to meet the conditions of the listed items on the certification will be 12 hours or less. In most cases, this inspection should not take a long time. If the conditions are not met,

detention (up to 180 days) at an Animal Quarantine Service will be required.

(2) Detention

For detention, the animal will be held in isolation away from other animals at the Animal Quarantine Service nearest the arrival airport (seaport) and inspected to confirm that it is free from rabies. Laboratory tests will be conducted as necessary. The detention period and location will normally be decided by the Animal Quarantine Service, but if you have a request for detention at a specific Animal Quarantine Service, please inform us at the time of submission of the Notification.

Inspection during detention will be conducted free of charge by the Animal Quarantine Service, but the importer will be liable for all other associated costs, including for transportation from the port of arrival to the place of detention, feeding and other care during detention, onsite veterinary examinations and treatments, and costs related to the return, abandonment and disposal of the pet.

Professional caretaker agents can be hired to provide care during detention, but such caretaker agents are stationed only at four facilities (as of February, 2005) : Yokohama, Narita Airport, Chubu and Kansai Airport. For other locations, it is necessary for the importer to hire a caretaker in advance.

The size of detention rooms, environment, and entry and departure regulations and other things can differ from station to station. For more information about these differences, please contact the Animal Quarantine Service.

【Animal Quarantine Services with detention facilities (and nearest air and sea ports)】

Narita Branch* (Narita Airport), Haneda Airport Branch (NewTokyo(Haneda) Airport), Kansai Airport Branch* (Kansai Airport), Chubu Airport Branch* (Chubu International Airports, Nagoya Seaports), Okinawa Branch (Naha Airport, Naha Seaport), Hokkaido Sub-branch (Shin Chitose Airport, Tomakomai Seaport), Fukuoka Airport Sub-branch(Fukuoka Airport, Hakata Seaport), Kagoshima Airport Sub-branch (Kagoshima Airport, Kagoshima Seaport), Animal Quarantine Service* (Yokohama Head Office: Keihin Seaport, Haneda Airport), Kobe Branch (Kobe Seaport), Osaka Sub-branch (Osaka Seaport), Moji Branch (Kanmon Seaport, Kitakyusyu Airport)

*Detention facilities where professional caretaker agents are stationed

4. Importer obligations

Other than the inspections at the time of arrival in Japan and during the detention period, the importer is responsible for all aspects of importation and detention and will bear all related costs. These include inspections and treatments in the exporting country, document preparation, pet transport, import inspection application procedures at the time of arrival in Japan, caretaking and feeding during quarantine, onsite examination and treatment by private veterinarians, procedures after the completion of inspection, and reclaiming, return and disposal of the pet. Furthermore, examination and treatment by private veterinarians will only be allowed at the detention facility. Importers should only import pets after they understand and accept these responsibilities.

5. List of Animal Quarantine Services with jurisdiction over airports (seaports) (as of April 2011)

Animal Quarantine Services with jurisdiction over the main airports (seaports) are as follows.

Name	Airport (Seaport)	Telephone number	Fax number	E-mail address
Yokohama Head Office (Animal Quarantine Division)	Keihin Seaport	+81(0)45-751-5921	+81(0)45-751-5951	y-dobutu@aq.s.maff.go.jp
Hokkaido Sub-branch	Tomakomai Seaport, Shin Chitose Airport	+81(0)123-24-6080	+81(0)123-24-6091	chitose@aq.s.maff.go.jp
Narita Branch Quarantine 1st Division	Narita International Airport	+81(0)476-32-6664	+81(0)476-30-3011	na-k1@aq.s.maff.go.jp
Narita Branch Quarantine 2nd Division	Narita International Airport	+81(0)476-34-2342	+81(0)476-34-2338	na-k2@aq.s.maff.go.jp
(Cargo inspection)	Narita International Airport	+81(0)476-32-6655	+81(0)476-30-3012	n-kamotu@aq.s.maff.go.jp
Haneda Airport Branch	Tokyo International Airport	+81(0)3-5757-9752	+81(0)3-5757-9758	haneda@aq.s.maff.go.jp
(Cargo inspection)	Tokyo International Airport	+81(0)3-5757-9755	+81(0)3-5757-9760	h-kamotu@aq.s.maff.go.jp
Chubu Airport branch	Chubu International Airport	+81(0)569-38-8577	+81(0)569-38-8585	meiku@aq.s.maff.go.jp
Nagoya Sub-branch	Nagoya Seaport	+81(0)52-651-0334	+81(0)52-661-0203	ng-ken@aq.s.maff.go.jp
Kansai Airport Branch Quarantine Division	Kansai International Airport	+81(0)72-455-1956	+81(0)72-455-1957	ka-ken@aq.s.maff.go.jp
(Cargo inspection)	Kansai International Airport	+81(0)72-455-1958	+81(0)72-455-1959	k-kamotu@aq.s.maff.go.jp
Kobe Branch	Kobe Seaport	+81(0)78-222-8990	+81(0)78-222-8994	ko-ken@aq.s.maff.go.jp
Osaka Sub-branch	Osaka Seaport	+81(0)6-6575-3466	+81(0)6-6575-0977	osaka@aq.s.maff.go.jp
Moji Branch	Kanmon Seaport, Kitakyusyu Airport	+81(0)93-321-1116	+81(0)93-332-5858	mo-ken@aq.s.maff.go.jp
Hakata Sub-branch	Hakata Seaport	+81(0)92-603-0267	+81(0)92-603-2511	hakatako@aq.s.maff.go.jp
Fukuoka Airport Sub-branch	Fukuoka Airport	+81(0)92-477-0080	+81(0)92-477-7580	fukuoka@aq.s.maff.go.jp
Kagoshima Airport Sub-branch	Kagoshima Airport	+81(0)995-43-9061	+81(0)995-43-9066	kagosima@aq.s.maff.go.jp
Okinawa Branch	Naha Seaport	+81(0)98-861-4370	+81(0)98-862-0093	oki-ken@aq.s.maff.go.jp
Naha Airport Sub-branch	Naha Airport	+81(0)98-857-4468	+81(0)98-859-1646	naha@aq.s.maff.go.jp

N.B. Except emergency please contact by fax or e-mail in Japanese or English.

6. Species of animals covered (as of November 2004)

The animals covered by the import conditions in this guide include those listed below and first-generation hybrids.

Types of animals	Family	Genus	Species
Dogs	Canidae	<i>Canis</i>	<i>familiaris</i>
Cats	Felidae	<i>Felis</i>	<i>catus</i>
Raccoons	Procyonidae	<i>Procyon</i>	all species
Foxes	Canidae	<i>Vulpes</i>	all species
		<i>Dusicyon</i>	all species
		<i>Alopex</i>	all species
		<i>Otocyon</i>	all species
Skunks	Mustelidae	<i>Mephitis</i>	all species
		<i>Spilogale</i>	all species
		<i>Conepatus</i>	all species

Source : A WORLD LIST OF MAMMALS WITH JAPANESE NAMES (Heibonsha Limited, 1998)

7. Bringing pets back to Japan after direct export to the designated regions

When returning pets that did not receive the procedure described in section 2 (1) before leaving Japan will be applied standard import procedures. While abroad, please fulfill all of the treatments and procedures of parts 1 to 3 above.

If a microchip was implanted in Japan, certification with the chip number on was obtained from the Animal Quarantine Service, the pet was exported to and has been stayed in a designated region and returned to Japan after staying there in less than 180 days, the quarantine at time of arrival may be completed in less than 12 hours. However, proof that the animal has not spent time outside the designated regions during the time between departure and return to Japan must be provided. (for transportation refer 1(6) above). Furthermore, in accordance with part 1(2) above, please submit a Notification document at least 40 days in advance of return to Japan.

Necessary documents on return to Japan

(1) Certificate of individual identification by microchip issued by the Animal Quarantine Service of Japan at the time of departure from Japan

(2) Certificate(s) provided by the appropriate exporting country government agency verifying the following:

- Animal has been kept only in designated regions since export from Japan
- Animal is not infected nor suspected being infected with rabies (in case of dogs, not infected nor suspected of being infected with rabies and leptospirosis, nor is there any suspicion of infection)
- No outbreak of rabies in the exporting country in the past 2 years

(3) Certification related to the transport cage seal number and transport (refer to section 1 (6))