

Guide to importing dogs, cats and other animals subject to animal quarantine from regions other than the designated regions into Japan (final revision: January, 2012)

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

The rules in this document are applicable to all regions **except** the designated regions, which are: Taiwan, Iceland, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii and Guam. (As of January 20, 2012)

Dogs, cats, foxes, raccoons, and skunks 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 dog or cat will be up to 12 hours. Any dog or cat that has not fulfilled these criteria will be kept at an Animal Quarantine Station for the necessary quarantine period (up to 180 days). All foxes, raccoons and skunks will be subject to a 180-day detention inspection, regardless of the existence of preliminary treatments and certification.

Depending on the results of import inspection, pets may be rejected to enter Japan.

This guide explains the necessary preliminary treatments and procedures, and import quarantine and related issues on arrival in Japan for pet.

Pets or animals as defined in this document: dogs, cats, foxes, skunks, raccoons (see section 6 for species list)

Certifications from the responsible government agency of the exporting country: In accordance with this guide, the importer must obtain certificates issued by the responsible government agency of the exporting country. We suggest using Japan's recommended forms (Form A, Form C). Form A and Form C can be obtained from the Animal Quarantine Service (<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/>). (See section 1 (8) for details.)

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In order for the quarantine to be completed within 12 hours, a dog or cat that arrives in Japan must meet all of the conditions in parts 1. To meet the conditions of part 1, preparation normally needs to begin 7 months before arrival in Japan. Any dog or cat that does not meet any of the conditions of parts 1 will undergo a detention at an Animal Quarantine Station for the necessary period (up to 180 days).

Foxes, raccoons and skunks will be subject to 180-day quarantine regardless of the existence of preliminary treatments and certification. However, in order to prevent any animals infected with rabies from traveling beyond borders, to ensure appropriate health care and to prevent diseases and accidents during the detention period, please complete microchip implantation (refer to 1 (1)) and clinical inspection before departure (refer to 1 (7)), and obtain certification of these measures from the appropriate exporting country government agency (refer to 1 (8)).

Depending on the results of import inspection, pets may be rejected to enter Japan.

#### 1. Preparation before import

Please make preparations in the following order.

Furthermore, (1) (2) (3) and (7) below must be stated on the certificate issued by the responsible exporting country government agency (see section 1 (8)). We advise that you first obtain the certification forms recommended by Japan (Form A, Form C), 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 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 antibodies, 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 must be noted in the certification from the responsible exporting country government agency (see 1 (8)). 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 be rejected to enter Japan.

##### (2) Rabies immunization (dogs and cats)

Time of vaccination: after microchip implantation

After microchip implantation, rabies vaccination should be given 2 or more times (only inactive or recombinant vaccines that meet the standards of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) will be accepted). Inoculation by inactive vaccine before microchip implantation or by live vaccine will not be recognized, and re-inoculation will be necessary in these cases. For dogs and cats that were vaccinated against rabies before being implanted with a microchip, the vaccination may be deemed effective and the number of days required for the necessary procedures may be reduced. For details, please refer to 8(the attachment) or submit an inquiry to the Animal Quarantine Service.

Dogs or cats must be at least 91 days old at the time of immunization. Furthermore, the second inoculation shall be conducted more than 31 days after the first and within the effective period of the first immunization. Moreover, if the date of arrival in Japan is past the effective immunization period, please conduct booster immunization.

##### (3) Serological test for rabies neutralizing antibodies (dogs and cats)

Time of blood sampling: After completion of microchip insertion and 2 or more rabies immunizations (see above), and within the effective immunization period of the last inoculation.

Send a blood sample to a laboratory designated by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan for rabies antibody test. The test must show that the antibody titer is 0.5 IU/ml or above. This test result will remain valid for 2 years from the time the blood sample was taken. Please be aware that if the animal does not arrive in Japan within 2 years, these test results will no longer be usable.

The date of the blood sampling, the laboratory and the test result shall be noted on the certificate issued by the responsible

exporting country government agency. In addition, please present the result notification issued by the laboratory to the Animal Quarantine Service at the time of arrival in Japan (refer to 1 (8)).

Before blood collection and shipment to a designated laboratory, please ask the designated laboratory how to apply for the test, label the blood container and send the sample, and if the sample needs treatment before sending to the laboratory.

At the time of blood collection, confirm the microchip number with a reader. Please use a sealed container that will not leak during shipping of the blood. Please send the completed application forms for the laboratory with the signature of the veterinarian who conducted the blood collection on along with the blood sample.

Please note that designated laboratories will be update (through new authorization and deauthorization), so please check with the Animal Quarantine Service (<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/>) for the latest information.

#### (4) Waiting period before export after confirmation of antibody presence (dogs and cats)

In order to reduce the detention period to 12 hours or less at the time of arrival in Japan, the dog or cat is advised to arrive in Japan more than 180 days and less than 2 years from the blood sampling date as described in the previous section. If the animal arrives in Japan before the passage of 180 days since the date of the blood sample, detention will be required for the insufficient number of days at an Animal Quarantine Station.

Note) If the rabies immunization period is exceeded during the waiting period, you must have the animal given booster immunization (refer to 1 (2)). If the two-year period will expire before the animal arrives in Japan, another blood sampling and serological test for rabies neutralizing antibodies shall be conducted on the animal. If, however, a certain condition is met, the second waiting period shall be deemed unnecessary. (For details, please refer to 8(the attachment).)

#### (5) Advance notification

Any person intending to import an animal covered by this document (hereafter, “importer”) must submit a notification to the Animal Quarantine Station 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 Station 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 Station with jurisdiction over the airport (seaport) of arrival. (For detention facility locations, please refer to part 3(2).)

#### (6) Approval of import inspection of animals

When the Notification is received, the Animal Quarantine Station 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 airline / ship staff when you check in or you ship your pets.

#### (7) Clinical inspection before departure

Before departure (2 days or less before boarding as 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 the case of dogs, rabies and leptospirosis) (refer to section 1 (8)).

#### (8) Obtaining a health certification 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 Station at the time of arrival in Japan. If the certificate is signed 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 C). These certification forms are available from the Animal Quarantine Service (<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/>).

### **【Main Certification Items】**

#### Dogs and cats

- ① Microchip number (standard, number, date of insertion, insertion position)
- ② Rabies immunizations with inactive or recombinant vaccine at proper times and intervals (inoculation date, name and address of the inoculating veterinarian, effective immunization period, product name, manufacturing company and batch number)
- ③ Results of serological tests for rabies antibodies (including sampling date, name and address of the veterinarian who took the blood sample, laboratory name and designation number, antibody titer and results notification from the laboratory)
- ④ Not infected nor suspected of being infected with rabies (in the case of dogs, rabies and leptospirosis)
- 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)

\* For cases in which rabies vaccination before the implantation of a microchip is deemed effective and the number of days required for the necessary procedures is reduced as provided for in (2) above, and for cases where another serological test for rabies neutralizing antibodies is performed to eliminate the need for a waiting period as provided for in (4) above, please refer to the attachment.

#### Foxes, skunks and raccoons

- ① Microchip number (standard, number, date of insertion, insertion position)
- ② Not infected nor suspected of being infected with rabies
- ③ Parasite treatment (dates of treatments, address and name of the veterinarian who administered the treatments, product names)

## 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 quarantine facilities.

### (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 treatment 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 Station 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 Station that has jurisdiction over the arrival airport (seaport), and the pet must undergo import quarantine. At this time, please present the certificate 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 certificate 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 Station will be required. All foxes, raccoons and skunks will be subject to a 180-day detention inspection, regardless of the existence of preliminary treatments and certification.

Furthermore, blood tests inspections may be conducted at random.

#### (2) Detention

For detention, the animal will be held in isolation from other animals at the Animal Quarantine Station 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 Station, 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: Yokohama, Narita Airport, Chubu Airport and Kansai Airport (as of April, 2010). 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 Stations with detention facilities (and nearest air and sea ports)**

Narita Branch\* (Narita Airport), Haneda Airport Branch (New Tokyo(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 quarantine 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 Stations with jurisdiction over airports (seaports) (as of April 2011)

Animal Quarantine Stations 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	<a href="mailto:y-dobutu@aq.s.maff.go.jp">y-dobutu@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>
Hokkaido Sub-branch	Tomakomai Seaport, Shin Chitose Airport	+81(0)123-24-6080	+81(0)123-24-6091	<a href="mailto:chitose@aq.s.maff.go.jp">chitose@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>
Narita Branch Quarantine 1st Division	Narita International Airport	+81(0)476-32-6664	+81(0)476-30-3011	<a href="mailto:na-k1@aq.s.maff.go.jp">na-k1@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>
Narita Branch Quarantine 2nd Division	Narita International Airport	+81(0)476-34-2342	+81(0)476-34-2338	<a href="mailto:na-k2@aq.s.maff.go.jp">na-k2@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>
(Cargo inspection )	Narita International Airport	+81(0)476-32-6655	+81(0)476-30-3012	<a href="mailto:n-kamotu@aq.s.maff.go.jp">n-kamotu@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>
Haneda Airport Branch	Tokyo International Airport	+81(0)3-5757-9752	+81(0)3-5757-9758	<a href="mailto:haneda@aq.s.maff.go.jp">haneda@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>
(Cargo inspection )	Tokyo International Airport	+81(0)3-5757-9755	+81(0)3-5757-9760	<a href="mailto:h-kamotu@aq.s.maff.go.jp">h-kamotu@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>
Chubu Airport branch	Chubu International Airport	+81(0)569-38-8577	+81(0)569-38-8585	<a href="mailto:meiku@aq.s.maff.go.jp">meiku@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>
Nagoya Sub-branch	Nagoya Seaport	+81(0)52-651-0334	+81(0)52-661-0203	<a href="mailto:ng-ken@aq.s.maff.go.jp">ng-ken@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>
Kansai Airport Branch Quarantine Division	Kansai International Airport	+81(0)72-455-1956	+81(0)72-455-1957	<a href="mailto:ka-ken@aq.s.maff.go.jp">ka-ken@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>
(Cargo inspection )	Kansai International Airport	+81(0)72-455-1958	+81(0)72-455-1959	<a href="mailto:k-kamotu@aq.s.maff.go.jp">k-kamotu@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>
Kobe Branch	Kobe Seaport	+81(0)78-222-8990	+81(0)78-222-8994	<a href="mailto:ko-ken@aq.s.maff.go.jp">ko-ken@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>
Osaka Sub-branch	Osaka Seaport	+81(0)6-6575-3466	+81(0)6-6575-0977	<a href="mailto:osaka@aq.s.maff.go.jp">osaka@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>
Moji Branch	Kanmon Seaport, Kitakyusyu Airport	+81(0)93-321-1116	+81(0)93-332-5858	<a href="mailto:mo-ken@aq.s.maff.go.jp">mo-ken@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>
Hakata Sub-branch	Hakata Seaport	+81(0)92-262-5285	+81(0)92-562-5283	<a href="mailto:hakata@aq.s.maff.go.jp">hakata@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>
Fukuoka Airport Sub-branch	Fukuoka Airport	+81(0)92-477-0080	+81(0)92-477-7580	<a href="mailto:fukuoka@aq.s.maff.go.jp">fukuoka@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>
Kagoshima Airport Sub-branch	Kagoshima Airport	+81(0)995-43-9061	+81(0)995-43-9066	<a href="mailto:kagosima@aq.s.maff.go.jp">kagosima@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>
Okinawa Branch	Naha Seaport	+81(0)98-861-4370	+81(0)98-862-0093	<a href="mailto:oki-ken@aq.s.maff.go.jp">oki-ken@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>
Naha Airport Sub-branch	Naha Airport	+81(0)98-857-4468	+81(0)98-859-1646	<a href="mailto:naha@aq.s.maff.go.jp">naha@aq.s.maff.go.jp</a>

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 dogs and cats back to Japan after direct export to another country/regions other than the designated regions

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

If accompanying a certificate issued by the Animal Quarantine Service verifying that a microchip has been implanted and that rabies vaccinations (2 or more times) were given, and results of serological test for rabies antibodies meet the necessary level, dogs or cats return to Japan within 2 years from the date of the serological tests, the quarantine at time of arrival may be completed within 12 hours. However, if while abroad, the rabies immunization period of effectiveness is completed, booster immunization must be provided before then. Furthermore, in accordance with part 1(5) above, please submit a Notification document at least 40 days in advance of return to Japan.

Dogs and cats that meet these conditions will need the following documents. However, if conditions are not met, the animal will be subject to a long period of quarantine (up to 180 days).

### Necessary documents on return to Japan

(1) Certificate issued by the Animal Quarantine Service verifying microchip implantation, 2 or more rabies vaccination and blood test result for rabies antibodies, at the time of departure from Japan

(2) (for dogs or cats that was given rabies booster immunization while abroad)

Rabies immunization certificate issued by the responsible government agency of the exporting country (inoculation date, name and address of the inoculating veterinarian, immunization effectiveness period, product name, manufacturing company, manufacture number)

(3) (For dogs and cats from which a blood sample was collected and serologically tested for rabies neutralizing antibodies abroad)

Certificate issued by the responsible government agency of the export country that shows the result of the serological test for rabies neutralizing antibodies

(4) Certificate issued by the responsible exporting country government agency that the animal is not infected nor suspected of being infected with rabies (in the case of dogs, not infected nor suspected of being infected with rabies and leptospirosis)

The test results of the rabies virus serum neutralizing antibody titer are valid for 2 years from the date of the blood sampling. Please note that dogs and cats that return to Japan more than 2 years after the date of the blood sampling will have to have another blood test for the neutralizing antibody titer.

The waiting period shall be deemed unnecessary if: 1) the dog or cat has been vaccinated against rabies on a continual basis, and the effective immunization period has yet to expire; and 2) a blood sample is collected and a serological test for rabies neutralizing antibodies is performed after at least 180 days and within 2 years from the previous blood sampling date. (Please refer to the attachment.)

Newly Approved Rules Effective as of April 15, 2010

- 1 For dogs and cats that were given a rabies vaccination before being implanted with a microchip, the time required for their import procedures may be reduced as detailed below.**

**For rabies vaccination, recombinant vaccines shall be deemed valid, in addition to inactive vaccines.**

(1) Object

Dogs and cats that were vaccinated against rabies before being implanted with a microchip (first rabies vaccination), after which at least 30 days have passed and the effective immunization period has yet to expire

(2) Condition

The first rabies vaccination must be vaccinated at 91 days old or more. When the dog or cat is implanted microchip, it is followed by the second rabies vaccination.

The second rabies vaccination shall be done after at least 30days apart from first rabies vaccination and within its expiry period.

And a blood sample for serological test for rabies neutralizing antibodies shall be collected before the second rabies vaccination.

A blood sample could be collected on the same day as the second rabies vaccination. In this case, when the test result shows that the antibody titer is 0.5 IU/ml or more, the blood sampling date shall be starting point of the waiting period (180 days).

If the antibody titer is less than 0.5 IU/ml, the dog or cat shall be given the third vaccination after at least 30 days apart from the second rabies vaccination and within its expiry period then serological test for rabies neutralizing antibodies again.

If a blood sample is not collected on the same day as the second rabies vaccination, a blood sample shall be collected after the second rabies vaccination and these two blood sample shall be tested.

(3) Items to be described in the certificate

In addition to items ① and ③ to ⑤ of the **【Main Certification Items】** in the Guide, the following items need to be described:

- Details of rabies immunizations with inactive vaccines or recombinant vaccines

First vaccination given before the implantation of a microchip, second vaccination after the implantation, and booster vaccination after blood sampling:

(Inoculation date, name and address of the inoculating veterinarian, effective immunization period, product name, manufacturer and batch number

**2 Dogs and cats for which the next serological test for rabies neutralizing antibodies was conducted within the effective period of the results of the first test shall not again be subject to quarantine. Specifically, the following rules shall be applied:**

(1) Effective period of the results of a serological test for rabies neutralizing antibodies

The results shall be deemed to be effective for two years from the blood sampling date.

(2) For dogs and cats that will arrive in Japan after two years have passed since the blood sampling date of a serological test for rabies neutralizing antibodies (first antibody test):

Blood sampling shall be conducted again for the second antibody test within the effective period of the first test results.

\* If the effective period has expired before the second antibody test is conducted, the dog or cat shall be again subject to quarantine.

(3) Caution

Dogs and cats for which the effective immunization period of the rabies vaccination will expire before they arrive in Japan shall be given a booster vaccination. (Refer to 1(2) of the Guide.)

(4) Items to be described in the certificate

If 180 days have passed after the blood sampling date of the second antibody test, items ① to ⑤ of the **【Main Certification Items】** of the Guide shall be described in the certificate.

If 180 days have not yet passed after the blood sampling date of the second antibody test, items ①, ④ and ⑤ of the **【Main Certification Items】** of the Guide and the following items need to be described in the certificate so that the dog or cat will not again be subject to quarantine.

( i ) Details of rabies vaccinations with inactivated vaccines or recombinant vaccines

First and second vaccinations given before the blood sampling date of the first antibody test and a booster vaccination after the blood sampling date:

Inoculation date, name and address of the inoculating veterinarian, effective immunization period, product name, manufacturer and batch number

( ii ) Results of the serological test for rabies neutralizing antibodies

Details of the results of the first and second antibody tests:

Blood sampling date, name and address of the veterinarian who collected the blood sample, the name of the examination laboratory, antibody titer and the test result issued by the laboratory

**If the effective period has expired before second antibody test, consult to Animal Quarantine office in an airport/seaport which your dogs/cats are scheduled to arrive. It may be acceptable when they are satisfied some extra conditions. [From January 1, 2012]**