

## **Amendment of import conditions on certain animals\*<sup>1</sup> from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Sweden and Norway**

\*<sup>1</sup> dog, cat, fox, raccoon and skunk

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012, the UK, Ireland, Sweden and Norway harmonized their import conditions for dogs and other pet animals with other EU Member States and permitted cross-border movements of dogs and other pet animals with less restrictive conditions throughout the EU including countries considered affected with rabies.

Therefore, Japan amended the list of the rabies-free designated regions to remove the UK(the Great Britain and Northern Ireland only), Ireland, Sweden and Norway(except Svalbard, Jan Mayen and dependencies out of Europe), and to request the same import conditions for certain animals\*<sup>1</sup> as from other EU member countries in order to prevent importing animals with rabies.

**[Note] The revised list of the rabies-free designated regions :**

Taiwan, Iceland, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii and Guam

### **○Transitional measures (For only dogs and cats)**

Transitional measures, however, are applied to the UK, Ireland and Sweden from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 and to Norway from 20<sup>th</sup> January 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012. During this transitional period, in addition to the previous import conditions (see below A)), dogs and cats that meet the following specific conditions (see below B)) are able to go through import inspections at the animal quarantine service in Japan.

#### **A) The previous import conditions are as follows:**

The dogs and cats must be accompanied by an official certificate issued by the responsible government authorities of the exporting country, certifying that:

- 1) The dog or cat is individually identified with a microchip.
- 2) The dog or cat has been kept only in the exporting country for the past 180 days, since birth, or since arriving directly from Japan.
- 3) There have been no outbreaks of rabies in the exporting country in the past two years.

4) The dog or cat did not show or was not suspected of clinical sign of rabies (in the case of dogs, rabies and leptospirosis) when inspected prior to departure.

**AND**

B) **The specific conditions** are as follows:

1) The dogs and cats must be accompanied by an official certificate issued by the responsible government authorities of the exporting country, certifying that:

The dog or cat was not imported from regions other than Japan and/or the revised designated regions as above (hereinafter referred to as “non-designated regions”) into the UK, Ireland, Sweden or Norway on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012.

If the dog or cat was born in the UK, Ireland, Sweden or Norway, it must be verified that the dog or cat had continuously stayed in the region since birth before being exported to Japan.

**AND**

2) It must be confirmed that the dogs or cats being exported have maintained the required level of rabies antibody titers from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 until the time of arrival in Japan based on history of rabies vaccinations and their serological tests (hereinafter referred to as “blood test”).

In practical terms, this means that the dogs or cats must be accompanied by an official certificate either issued by the responsible government authorities of the exporting country, or issued by a veterinarian and endorsed\*<sup>2</sup> by the responsible government authorities of the exporting country, certifying the following conditions:

\*<sup>2</sup> The endorsed certificate must be signed by a government veterinarian, and state the name and date of signature, and be sealed or stamped by the authorities.

a) The dog or cat, which must be at least 91 days old, has been vaccinated against rabies with an approved rabies vaccine\*<sup>3</sup>, and the primary vaccination, must have been given on or before 18<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

\*<sup>3</sup> Only inactivated or recombinant vaccine is approved. Live vaccine is not valid.

**AND**

b) The dog or cat was conducted blood test without an additional vaccination against rabies on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012. The blood sampling date must be on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 and must be carried out after the dog or cat was identified by its microchip. The result must be equal to 0.5 IU/ml or greater.

**AND,**

## EITHER

- c) In case of followings, it should receive an additional vaccination against rabies promptly after the blood test outlined in point b).
- If the dog or cat was vaccinated against rabies only once on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011
  - If the dog or cat has not been vaccinated regularly with additional booster vaccinations against rabies\*<sup>4</sup>,
  - If the period of validity of the latest vaccination against rabies on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 has passed at the time of the blood test outlined in point b).

\*<sup>4</sup> Second vaccination must be conducted more than 31 days after the primary vaccination and within the period of validity of the primary vaccination.

## OR

- d) If the dog or cat has been vaccinated regularly with additional booster vaccinations on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 and the period of validity of most recent vaccination will be expired\*<sup>5</sup> between the time of the blood test (outlined in point b)) and entry into Japan, the dog and cat should receive an additional booster vaccination within the period of validity.

\*<sup>5</sup> Period of validity of vaccine is as defined in the technical specification for the anti-rabies vaccine in the country where the vaccine is administered.

○If you have a plan to bring your dog or cat from those countries to Japan, **please contact the Animal Quarantine Service of Japan and ask detailed information prior to vaccinations or blood test.**

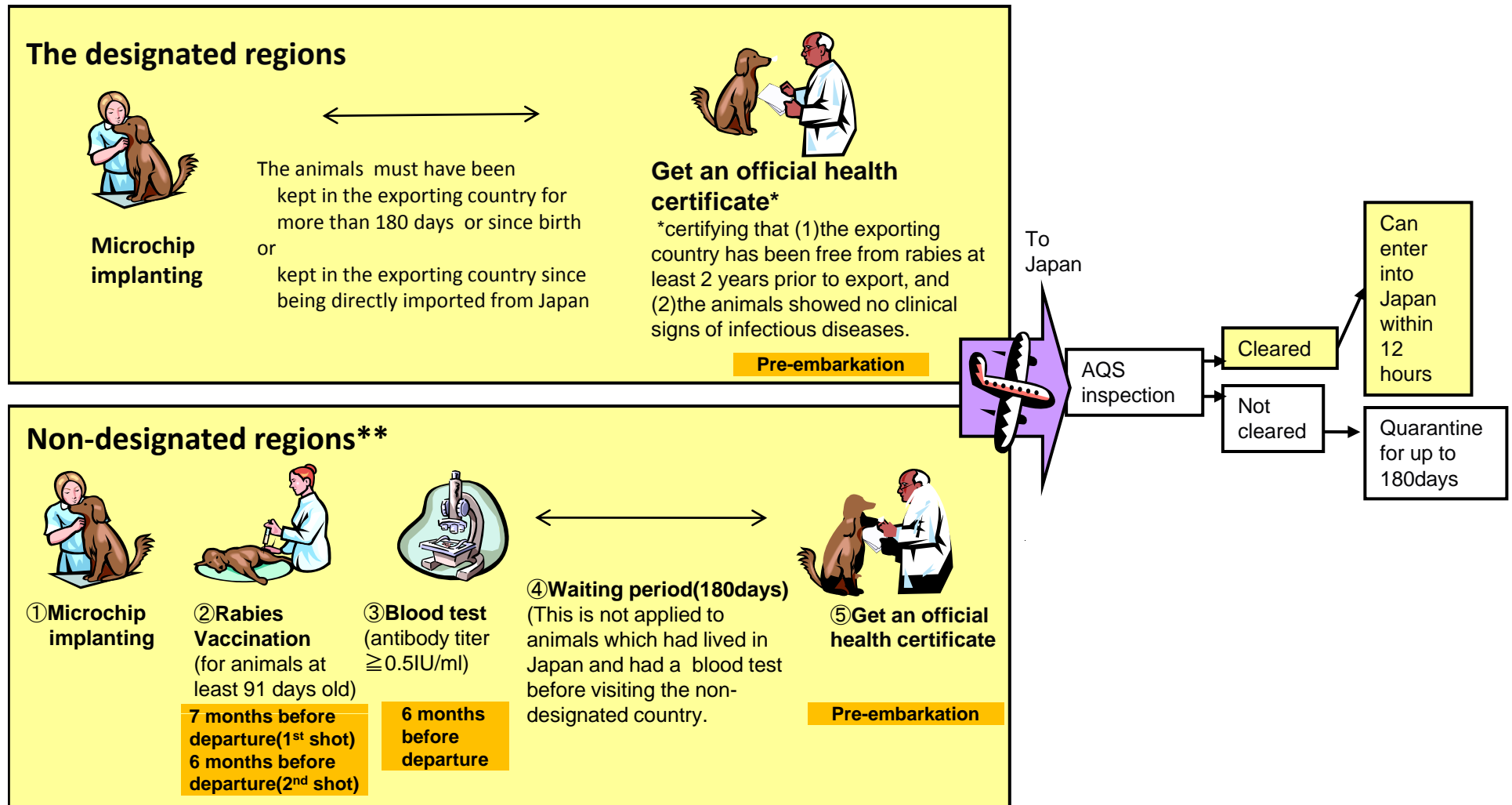
<https://www.contact.maff.go.jp/aqs/form/d5db.html>

The information about quarantine system for dogs and cats:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/index.html>

# Import conditions for dogs, cats, fox, raccoon and skunk(outline)

【NOTE】 Advance notification is required when exporting animal.  
 (Exporting animal's information such as species of animal, country of export, etc. should be sent to AQS in advance of export.)



**From 1<sup>st</sup> January\*\*\* 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012,  
 Transitional measures[see next page] are applied to the UK, Ireland, Sweden and Norway\*\*\***

\*\* Raccoon, fox and skunk from non-designated regions are required to stay for 180 days at the quarantine station.

\*\*\* In case of Norway, from January 20, 2012.

# Transitional measures applied to dogs and cats from the UK, Ireland, Sweden and Norway [ 1 January 2012\* ~ 31 July 2012 ]

\* in case of Norway, January 20, 2012

\*\* in case of Norway, January 19, 2012

## 1. Until 31 December 2011\*\*

- ① Health Certificate issued by the exporting country attesting that:
  - the animal(s) being exported is not affected by rabies\*\*\*
  - the exporting country has been free from rabies for at least 2 years prior to export
  - the animal(s) being exported has been in the exporting countries or in Japan for more than 180 days prior to export\*\*\*\*
- ② Microchip implanting

Arrival

Can enter Japan within 12 hours

\*\*\* in case of dogs, rabies and leptospirosis)  
\*\*\*\* or since the animal's birth

## 2. 1 January 2012\* ~ 31 July 2012 (Transitional measures)

- ① Health Certificate issued by the exporting country attesting that:
  - the animal(s) being exported is not affected by rabies\*\*\*
  - the exporting country has been free from rabies for at least 2 years prior to export
  - the animal(s) being exported has been in the exporting countries or in Japan for more than 180 days prior to export\*\*\*\*
  - the animal(s) being exported was not imported into the UK, Ireland, Sweden or Norway from regions other than Japan and the designated regions on or after 1 January 2012
- ② Microchip implanting
- ③ From 1 January 2012 until the time of arrival in Japan, the rabies antibody titer remains adequate

Arrival

If the previous import conditions and the specific conditions (in red) are satisfied,

Can enter Japan within 12 hours

\*\*\* in case of dogs, rabies and leptospirosis)  
\*\*\*\* or since the animal's birth