

Live animals on board (including pets)

AQIS fact sheet

LIVE ANIMALS ON BOARD (INCLUDING PETS)

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) is responsible for the protection of Australia's agriculture, public health and native flora and fauna from exotic pests and diseases.

Many of these diseases are transmittable through animals, so strict laws relate to animals on vessels while in Australia.

Animals may include fish, birds and reptiles. A ship's pet may be any animal **other than** ruminants (eg. goats), fowl (eg. chickens and pigeons) or rodents of any form.

THE THREAT

Animals on board vessels that have recently visited overseas countries, may have come in contact with species carrying damaging pests and diseases such as foot and mouth disease, African swine fever, screw-worm fly, rabies, Newcastle disease and avian flu.

WHAT IS THE RISK?

AQIS's quarantine procedures have been developed to reduce the risk of exotic pests and diseases arriving in Australia.

On arrival, vessels are boarded and routine ship inspections are conducted. A Quarantine officer will then complete specific procedures relating to any pets, and shall ensure that the Master of the vessel is fully aware of all requirements placed on a vessel carrying a pet.

Failure to comply with direction issued by the quarantine officer, or the prescribed conditions relating to the control or confinement of an animal, may result in the destruction of the animal and prosecution of the Master.

An approved veterinarian may destroy animals not declared as ship's pets or manifested as cargo, on arrival. If your animal comes ashore unauthorised and into contact with any Australian animals, including birds, it may be destroyed and the Master could face serious charges.

AQIS REQUIREMENTS – WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

- use the **Quarantine Pre-arrival Report for Vessels (Pratique)** form to provide the number and description of all animals on board the vessel 12-48 hours before arrival;
- comply with all directions issued by the quarantine officer on the **'Reporting Requirements for Animals on Vessels'** form;
- confine all animals indoors as directed by the quarantine officer;
- dispose of all animal waste under quarantine control, or in a manner approved by AQIS;
- all yachts must be kept at a safe mid- water mooring or anchorage at all times;
- provide 48 hours notice of any intended change of moorings, anchorage or departure from any Australian port and Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) of the next port of call; and
- provide immediate notification to AQIS if any animal on board becomes ill, dies or escapes.