



Information Package 2

MINIMUM 30 DAYS IN AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE

Quarantine requirements for the importation of cats and dogs from
AQIS approved rabies free countries and territories

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INTRODUCTION

All cats and dogs entering Australia from countries listed against this information package require an import permit to be granted by AQIS prior to export. To obtain an AQIS import permit, an application to import cats and dogs to Australia must be completed.

The AQIS import permit contains Veterinary Certificates A and B.

The steps below provide detailed information for completing the entire import process.

The importer, as listed on the AQIS import permit, is classified as the owner and is responsible for the animal during the quarantine period, the release of the animal from quarantine and all associated fees.

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Please refer to the AQIS website to ensure you have the current version of this document, as import conditions may change.

Step 1: General Eligibility

Time Frame: Confirm eligibility before proceeding.

Residency: Cats and dogs must have been continuously living in the country of export for a minimum of six (6) months immediately prior to export *or* since direct importation from Australia *or* since birth.

Cats and dogs must not be under quarantine restriction at the time of export.

Age: Cats and dogs must be at least twelve (12) weeks old at the time of export.

Pregnancy: Cats and dogs must not be more than **3 weeks pregnant** nor be suckling young at the time of export.

Cat Breeds: In accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), cats derived from a serval cat (*Felis serval*) are not eligible for importation into Australia. This includes cats derived from crossbreeding a domestic cat (*Felis catus*) with a serval cat or with a savannah cat (*Felis catus* x *Felis serval*).

Dog Breeds: Under the legislation of the [Australian Customs Service](#), dogs of the following pure-breeds are prohibited and are not eligible for importation into Australia:

- Dogo Argentino
- Fila Brasileiro
- Japanese Tosa
- Pit Bull Terrier or American Pit Bull
- Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario

The Australian Customs Service can be contacted on phone: +61 2 6275 6666 or 1300 363 263 (within Australia) or by email: information@customs.gov.au

Hybrids: Any other domestic/non-domestic animal hybrids (eg. Bengal cats or wolf crosses) are not eligible for import unless they are 5 generations or more removed from their pure-bred non-domestic ancestors. Contact the [Wildlife Permits and Enforcement Section](#), The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) phone: +61 2 6274 1111 for further information.

Step 2: Microchip

Time Frame: Must be completed before continuing with the import permit process.

Cats and dogs must be identified by a microchip that can be read by an Avid®, Trovan®, Destron® or other ISO compatible reader. The microchip must be implanted before any testing takes place.

AQIS strongly recommends that the animal is scanned at each visit to the veterinarian to ensure that the microchip can be read and is correct prior to export.

If the microchip differs from the AQIS import permit, can not be found or read upon the animals arrival in Australia, the animal will be re-exported to the country of origin.

It is the importer's responsibility to contact their local Australian council regarding cat or dog registration and microchip requirements. AQIS is unable to provide council details.

Step 3: Apply for an AQIS Import Permit

Time frame: Once the microchip has been implanted in the cat or dog.

AQIS import permits are valid for six (6) months from the date of issue.

- Application information and forms can be found at: www.daff.gov.au/aqis/cat-dogs/application.

Supporting documentation is required for assessing import permit applications. Originals of the documentation are not required.

You may submit your import permit application with all supporting documentation by any of the following methods:

- **eLodge** at: www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/application/forms. You will need to scan and attach all supporting documentation.
- **Email** a signed and scanned copy of your application to animalimp@aqis.gov.au.
- **Fax** to +61 2 6272 3110
- **Post** to AQIS Live Animal Imports GPO Box 858, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

AQIS aims to grant all import permit applications within ten (10) working days, provided that all required information is received at the time of submission.

Payment of Import Permit Fees

Current fees for import permit applications can be found at:

www.daffa.gov.au/aqis/import/general-info/fees-charges/schedule-permit-applications

- **Credit Card** – AQIS accepts American Express, Visa and MasterCard on posted, faxed, emailed and eLodged applications.
- **Cheque** – AQIS accepts bank cheque payment with posted applications only. Bank cheques must be in Australian dollars and made out to the "Collector of Public Monies – AQIS". No personal cheques will be accepted.

Step 4: Book Tentative Quarantine Accommodation

Time Frame: On receipt of the AQIS import permit.

On receipt of the AQIS import permit, you will need to contact the relevant [Animal Quarantine Station](#) to make a booking for your animal/s.

The granting of an AQIS import permit does not guarantee a space at your preferred Animal Quarantine Station. Due to high demand, some stations may require bookings to be made in advance.

You must confirm the booking by providing an air waybill number to the Animal Quarantine Station closer to the date of departure.

Detailed information on the Australian Animal Quarantine Stations can be viewed at: www.daff.gov.au/aqis/cat-dogs/accom.

Step 5: Locate an Official Government Veterinarian, a Government Approved Veterinarian and a Government Approved Laboratory in the AQIS approved country of export.

Time frame: As soon as possible.

An Official Government Veterinarian: is a government officer usually employed by the government veterinary administration in the exporting country (eg in the UK – Department for Environment Food). Official Government Veterinarians generally do not work in private practice. Official Government Veterinarians are authorised to sign certificates on behalf of their Government's veterinary administration. Official Government Veterinarians endorse Veterinary Certificate A and complete Veterinary Certificate B in the AQIS import permit.

A Government Approved Veterinarian: You should contact the government veterinary administration in your country to determine which veterinarians you can use to prepare the animal for export. The government approved veterinarian will prepare the animal for export to Australia and complete Veterinary Certificate A of the AQIS import permit.

Government Approved Laboratories: are approved by the veterinary service in the country of export for testing samples from animals destined for export. These laboratories may be in another country. However, it must be located within an AQIS approved country.

AQIS does not have a list of Government or Official Veterinarians. To locate appropriate veterinarians and testing laboratories you must contact the government quarantine, agriculture or food departments in the country of export.

You can view a list of useful contact links at www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/live-animals/links

Step 6: Commence Travel Arrangements

Time frame: A copy of the AQIS import permit is required to start travel arrangements

Cats and dogs can only arrive into Australia through the following airports:

- Sydney (New South Wales)
- Melbourne (Victoria)
- Perth (Western Australia).

Animals can travel unaccompanied to Australia. On arrival animals will be collected at the airport by AQIS staff and transported directly to the Animal Quarantine Station.

Flights should be booked to arrive in Australia from Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:00am and 4:30pm. You will need to obtain prior approval from the relevant Animal Quarantine Station for flights that will arrive outside of these hours. Animals must not arrive on Australian public holidays or weekends as they can not be collected from the airport.

AQIS does not place any restrictions on the airline you choose. However, the animal must travel as "Manifested Cargo" (not in the cabin) and in an International Air Transport Association (IATA) approved container (crate) for cats and dogs.

IATA guidelines can be viewed at: www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live_animals/pets.htm

Strict compliance with crate specifications is vital for the safe and secure transport of your animal. Problems will occur if the animal can escape from its crate or if any part of its body (nose, limbs, or tail) can protrude.

During transport to Australia, cats and dogs may transit (touch down but stay on the same plane) in any country AQIS approved or not.

Cats and dogs can only trans-ship (change aircraft or vessel) through the following airports:

- Amsterdam,
- Copenhagen,
- Frankfurt
- Heathrow

Cats and dogs can also trans-ship through countries that are recognised by AQIS as a 'rabies free territory' (AQIS category 1, 2, 3A or 3B countries only). A list of AQIS approved countries is found at the end of this document.

Trans-shipment may also require approval from the quarantine authority in the country of trans-shipment. For the wellbeing of the animal AQIS strongly advises booking direct flights to prevent mishaps occurring (eg animals missing connecting flights and remaining in airports for extended periods of time).

There are animal transport companies in most countries that can make arrangements on your behalf. Visit: www.ipata.com for a list of animal transport companies worldwide.

AQIS accepts no responsibility for animals that escape en route, and all transport costs are at the expense of the importer.

Step 7: Confirm Quarantine Accommodation Booking

Time Frame: Once travel arrangements have been made and prior to export of the animal.

You must contact the [Animal Quarantine Station](#) to confirm your animal's booking. You will need to provide:

- A valid AQIS Import Permit number
- Flight number and date of arrival in Australia
- Air waybill number
- Contact telephone number
- Details of any special needs your animal may have

Step 8: General Vaccinations

Time frame: Between 1 year and 14 days prior to export.

Vaccinations must be valid for the entire quarantine period in Australia. All vaccinations must have been administered within an AQIS approved country.

- **Dogs** must be vaccinated against distemper, infectious hepatitis, canine parvovirus (parvo), para-influenza and Bordetella bronchiseptica (kennel cough).

Vaccination against Leptospira interrogans are not recommended as the vaccination can interfere with testing which may result in dogs being ineligible for export to Australia.

- **Cats** must be vaccinated against feline enteritis (also known as feline panleucopenia or feline distemper), rhinotracheitis and calicivirus.

Step 9: Dogs Only – Ehrlichiosis, External Parasites , Brucellosis, Leptospirosis and Leishmaniosis

Time frame: Within 30 days prior to export.

Blood tests: Arrange for a government approved veterinarian to scan the dog's microchip and draw blood samples for the testing of:

- ehrlichiosis (tropical canine pancytopenia)
- brucellosis
- leishmaniosis
- leptospirosis

The microchip number must be recorded on the blood tube and on the laboratory submission form. The blood must be sent to a government-approved laboratory for testing. The laboratory report must be in English, on official letterhead, signed by an authorised officer at the laboratory and link the dog's microchip number to the test result.

If there is no microchip number on the laboratory report or the testing requirements are not met, the dog may be re-exported from Australian Quarantine at the importer's expense.

The results must be recorded on Veterinary Certificate A of the AQIS import permit. Copies of all laboratory test results must be endorsed by an Official Government Veterinarian and accompany the dog to Australia.

Contact AQIS if the dog does not meet the test requirements.

Ehrlichiosis: Dogs must be tested for *Ehrlichia canis* infection by the indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT). The test must produce a negative result at a dilution of 1:40.

Treatment for external parasites must commence at the same time that blood is sampled for ehrlichia testing as this disease is spread by ticks.

A Government Approved Veterinarian must treat the dog with a long acting acaricide that is registered for the control of ticks such as fiprinol (eg Frontline®) or permethrin (eg Permaxin®). The treatment must kill ticks upon direct contact. Oral products and medicated collars are not satisfactory, neither are products that kill ticks only after biting your animal. Washes and rinses that prevent ticks and tick bites are acceptable.

The treatment must be repeated according to the manufacturer's instructions to the date of export. Treatment must be also be repeated within 4 days prior to export. Dates of treatment must be recorded on Veterinary Certificate A of the AQIS import permit.

Brucellosis: Dogs must be tested for *Brucella canis* infection using a serum agglutination test. The test must produce a negative result.

Once blood is collected for this test the dog must not be mated or inseminated prior to export to Australia.

Leishmaniosis: Dogs must be tested for *Leishmania infantum* infection by an indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT) or an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). The test must produce a negative result.

Leptospirosis: Dogs must be tested for *Leptospira canicola* serovar of *Leptospira interrogans* using a microscopic agglutination test.

Dogs that record a negative result (less than 50% agglutination at a serum dilution of 1:100) are eligible for import.

Dogs that record a result of positive at 1:100 or more, but negative at 1:800, must be **re-tested** 14 days or more after the first test. The second test must also show a negative titre result at 1:800 or less.

Dogs that record a result positive at 1:800 or more are ineligible for import.

Vaccination against Leptospira interrogans are not recommended as the vaccination can interfere with testing which may result in dogs being ineligible for export to Australia.

Step 10: Dogs that have ever been in Africa - Babesiosis

Time frame: Within 28 days prior to export.

This treatment should not be given within 48 hours of treatment for external parasites as the chance of side-effects may increase.

Option 1: A government approved veterinarian must treat the dog **once** with imidocarb dipropionate (Forray-65[®], Hoechst or Imizol[®] by Coopers) at a rate of 7.5 mg per kg body weight by subcutaneous injection.

Option 2: A government approved veterinarian must treat the dog **twice** with imidocarb dipropionate (Forray-65[®], Hoechst or Imizol[®] by Coopers) at a rate of 6.6 mg per kg body weight by subcutaneous injection given two weeks apart.

Details of treatment/s must be recorded on Veterinary Certificate A of the AQIS import permit.

Step 11: Internal and External Parasite Treatment

Time frame: Within 4 days prior to export. This can be done at the same time as the completion of Veterinary Certificate A of the AQIS import permit.

Internal parasites: Cats and dogs must be treated with a product approved for the treatment of nematodes and cestodes (eg Drontal[®]).

Internal parasite treatment must be effective against roundworm, hookworm, whipworm and tapeworm.

External parasites: Cats and dogs must be treated with a product approved for the treatment of ticks and fleas. The treatment must kill ticks upon direct contact.

Oral products, injections and medicated collars are not satisfactory nor are products that rely on the tick biting the dog. Washes, rinses and spot on products that kill ticks on contact are acceptable.

Dogs: You must have already commenced external parasite treatment for dogs, as per Step 12. The dog must be retreated for external parasites within 4 days prior to export.

The product name, active ingredient, dose rate and treatment date/s must be recorded on Veterinary Certificate A of the AQIS import permit.

Step 12: Completion of Veterinary Certificate A Including Pre-Export Inspection

Time frame: Within 4 days prior to export.

Veterinary Certificates A and B are included in the granted AQIS Import Permit.

Veterinary Certificate A is to be completed by a Government Approved Veterinarian or an Official Government Veterinarian.

You must bring the animal and all documentation (eg. vaccination certificates, laboratory reports) to this inspection. The animal must be free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious diseases.

A thorough examination for external parasites, including visible or palpable ticks, must be performed by the approved veterinarian. Particular attention should be given to the forelegs, chest, neck, head, ears, eyes, shoulders, axillae and inner thighs. The animal must be fit to undertake the journey to Australia and undergo quarantine in Australia.

Any corrections to the approved veterinarian's entries on Veterinary Certificate A will only be accepted if the original entry has been struck through and remains legible – correction fluid must not be used. An Official Government Veterinarian must sign to each correction.

The AQIS import permit must not be altered.

Step 13: Microchip scan, completion of Veterinary Certificate B, sealing animal in the shipping container (crate)

Time frame: After the completion of Veterinary Certificate A, usually on the day of departure.

Veterinary Certificate B must be completed by an Official Government Veterinarian. The following documents must be presented to the Official Government Veterinarian to be signed and stamped (endorsed) and then travel with the animal to Australia.

- Original or copy of the AQIS import permit
- Completed Veterinary Certificate A
- General vaccination certificates
- [Dogs Only] brucellosis, ehrlichiosis, leishmania and leptospirosis laboratory reports in English

Copies may be used. However, the paperwork arriving in Australia with your animal must bear original signatures and stamps.

An Official Government Veterinarian must scan the animal and confirm that the microchip number is consistent on the AQIS import permit and all supporting documents. If the microchip number is consistent, the veterinarian must record the number on Veterinary Certificate B.

If the microchip number is incorrect on the AQIS import permit and/or supporting documentation OR the microchip is absent and cannot be scanned, the animal is ineligible for import.

The Official Government Veterinarian must record the identification number of the seal on Veterinary Certificate B and seal the animal into the crate. Ensure the animal is prepared for travel before the crate is sealed. Once sealed, the animal must not be released from its crate.

A water container should be fixed inside the crate. An external funnel with a hose leading into the water container should be provided to allow water to be replenished without opening the crate. Sufficient absorbent bedding should be provided (soiled bedding may be destroyed on arrival in Australia). The crate should be marked "Live Animal".

Step 14: Check animal in with the airline

Time frame: Confirm with your airline.

In most cases the animal will be checked in at the freight terminal, not the passenger terminal.

The AQIS import permit (Veterinary Certificates A and B), blood test results, vaccination records and any other relevant documents must travel to Australia with the animal. These documents may be originals or copies but must bear the original signature and stamp of an Official Government Veterinarian of the country of export.

AQIS recommends that you retain a copy of these documents.

If, in exceptional circumstances, the animals crate must be opened during transit or transshipment it must be resealed and a certificate provided to AQIS by an Official Government Veterinarian, port authority, or captain of the aircraft detailing the circumstances. Instructions to this effect should be attached to the outside of the crate before departure from the port of export.

On Arrival in Australia

On arrival animals will be collected from the airport by AQIS staff and transported directly to the [Animal Quarantine Station](#). **Visiting of animals at the airport upon arrival in Australia is not permitted.**

AQIS provides housing, bedding, food, water and care for the animal for the duration of its stay. All quarantine costs must be paid by the importer prior to the animal's release.

Should the animal require veterinary care, AQIS will contact the importer and arrange for a private veterinarian. Private veterinarians will charge the importer directly.

Cats and dogs returning to Australia

The pet travel scheme (PETS) also known as the pet passport scheme, does not apply to cats and dogs returning to Australia. All cats and dogs must meet the AQIS import conditions.

Visit the following webpage for more information: www.daff.gov.au/aqis/cat-dogs/returning

AQIS cannot guarantee that animals exported from Australia will be eligible for re-import.

Cats and dogs exported from Australia immediately relinquish their Australian status.

Exported cats and dogs may be exposed to exotic diseases and may not be eligible for direct re-import to Australia.

Only cats and dogs in an **AQIS approved country may** be eligible for direct return to Australia.

All cats and dogs that are eligible for re-import must complete a period of quarantine within Australia.

AQIS Approved Countries

Approved Rabies-Free Countries and Territories - No Quarantine Required

- Cocos (Keeling) Islands
- New Zealand
- Norfolk Island

Approved Rabies-Free Countries and Territories Minimum of 30 Days Quarantine (Information Package 2)

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| • Bahrain | • Barbados | • Cyprus | • Falkland Islands |
| • Fiji | • French Polynesia | • Guam | • Hawaii |
| • Iceland | • Ireland | • Japan | • Malta |
| • Mauritius | • New Caledonia | • Norway | • Singapore |
| • Sweden | • Taiwan | • The United Kingdom | • Vanuatu |

Approved Rabies-Free Island Countries and Territories Minimum of 60 Days Quarantine (Information Package 3A)

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|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| • American Samoa | • Federated States of Micronesia | • Kiribati | |
| • Papua New Guinea | • Solomon Islands | • Wallis and Futuna | • Western Samoa |

Approved Rabies-Free Island Countries and Territories which may not have an official veterinary service Minimum of 60 Days Quarantine (Information Package 3B)

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|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------|
| • Christmas Island | • Cook Islands | • Kingdom of Tonga | • Nauru |
| • Niue | • Palau | • Tuvalu | |

Approved Countries and Territories recognised by the Australian Government as Countries and Territories in which dog mediated rabies is absent or well controlled. Quarantine Time Varies & Rabies Vaccination (Information Package 4)

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|---|---|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Antigua and Barbuda | • Argentina | • Austria | • Bahamas |
| • Belgium | • Bermuda | • British Virgin Islands | • Brunei |
| • Bulgaria | • Canada | • Canary/Balearic Islands | • Cayman Islands |
| • Chile | • Croatia | • Czech Republic | • Denmark |
| • France | • Finland | • Germany | • Greece |
| • Greenland | • Hong Kong | • Hungary | • Israel |
| • Italy | • Jamaica | • Kuwait | • Luxembourg |
| • Macau | • Malaysia (Peninsular, Sabah & Sarawak only) | | • Monaco |
| • Montenegro | • Netherlands – Antilles and Aruba | | • Netherlands |
| • Poland | • Portugal | • Puerto Rico | • Qatar |
| • Reunion | • Saipan | • Serbia | • Seychelles |
| • Slovakia | • Slovenia | • South Korea | • Spain |
| • St Kitts and Nevis | • St Lucia | • St Vincent and the Grenadines | |
| • Switzerland (including Liechtenstein) | | • Trinidad and Tobago | • United Arab Emirates |
| • United States of America (not including Hawaii) | | • US Virgin Islands | • Uruguay |

Approved Countries and Territories recognised by the Australian Government as countries and territories in which dog mediated rabies is endemic (Information Package 5)

- Republic of South Africa

All Other Countries - Non-Approved

*AQIS does not allow the direct importation of cats and dogs from non-approved countries. The importation can only occur indirectly via an AQIS approved country. Cats and dogs must be continuously resident in an AQIS approved country for a minimum of six months prior to export to Australia. Cats and dogs then become eligible for import into Australia under the AQIS import conditions that apply to that particular approved country. AQIS **will not** accept any vaccinations or blood testing that is completed in a non-approved country.*