



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and  
Inspection Service

## Information Package 1 – New Zealand

NO AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE PERIOD

Requirements for the importation of cats and dogs from New Zealand

Australian Quarantine & Inspection Service (AQIS) Live Animal Imports

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### INTRODUCTION

All cats and dogs entering Australia from New Zealand do not require an import permit to be granted by AQIS.

There is no Australian quarantine period.; However, the following import conditions need to be met in order for cats and dogs to be eligible for importation into Australia. The requirements must be met prior to cats and dogs being exported from New Zealand.

#### Updated July 2009

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

#### General Eligibility

**Residency:** Cats and dogs must have been continuously resident in New Zealand for ninety (90) days immediately prior to export, *or* since direct importation from Australia *or* since birth.

Cats and dogs must not have been in quarantine or under quarantine restrictions in the 60 days immediately prior to 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 **three (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](http://www.customs.gov.au), 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](mailto: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](http://www.dewha.gov.au), The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) phone: +61 2 6274 1111 for further information.

## Permission to Import

An AQIS import permit is not required.

A Statutory Declaration signed by the exporter is required and must:

- identify the cat/dog by breed, sex and age
- verify that the cat/dog has been continually resident in New Zealand *or* Australia for the 90 days immediately preceding export to Australia, *or* since birth
- verify that the dog is not a pure-bred: Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Japaense Tosa, Pit Bull Terrier, American Pit Bull, Perro de Presa Canario or a Presa Canario.

## Health and Certification Requirements

The animal must be accompanied by a health certificate signed by a [registered veterinarian](#) (a veterinarian authorised to certify on behalf of the New Zealand [Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry](#) (MAF), [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/exports/animals/dog-cat-oz.htm](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/exports/animals/dog-cat-oz.htm)) certifying that:

- New Zealand is free from rabies
- [Dogs only] canine brucellosis, canine ehrlichiosis, leishmaniosis and leptospirosis due to *Leptospira canicola* have not been confirmed in New Zealand in the 12 months prior to export.
- he/she examined the animal within 72 hours prior to export and found it fit to travel.
- [Dogs that have ever been in Africa]. Since last in Africa and before entering Australia the dog was treated as in Option 1 or Option 2 or; where the dog is not treated in New Zealand a copy of the certification of the treatment as in Option 1 or Option 2 must be endorsed by MAF and accompany the dog to Australia.

Option 1: A government approved veterinarian must treat your 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 your 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.

- Evidence that either the dog has been continuously resident in New Zealand since birth or the dog has been continuously resident in New Zealand since its importation from Australia. If the dog has not lived all of its life in New Zealand or if it has not resided only in New Zealand since import from Australia the following evidence of testing must be present to the MAF approved veterinarian:
  - a negative test (IFAT at 1:40) result for *Ehrlichia canis* and
  - a negative test (IFAT or ELISA) result for *Leishmania infantum*

## Transport

The cat/dog must be transported to Australia in accordance with the container requirements specified in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations. These specify, among other things that the container must:

- be strong enough to prevent the animal escaping
- have ventilation openings on all sides totalling a minimum of 16% of the surface area of the 4 sides but that these shall be of such size that it is impossible for the animal to protrude its nose or paws outside the container
- be large enough to permit the animal to stand in a natural position, turn around and lie down

For more details regarding IATA regulations contact the airline. The IATA standards have been developed to prevent escape and injury during transportation.

Cats and dogs must travel as manifest cargo in the live animal area of the hold.

Disability assistance dogs may travel with their handler in the cabin.

## Quarantine

Cats and dogs entering Australia from New Zealand having not met the above requirements may be ordered into quarantine or returned to New Zealand at the importer's expense.

## Importation Procedures

1. Documentation must be provided as specified and all import requirements must be met.
2. AQIS must be given at least three days notice of the animal's arrival in Australia. If the dog is a disability assistance dog, please advise AQIS at the time of notification. This should be done by faxing the AQIS Veterinary Officers located in the state in which your animal will first arrive in Australia.

| <b>AQIS State Office</b> | <b>Phone</b>    | <b>Fax</b>      |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| New South Wales          | +61 2 8334 7444 | +61 2 8334 7430 |
| Victoria                 | +61 3 8318 6700 | +61 3 8308 5071 |
| Queensland               | +61 7 3246 8755 | +61 7 3246 8798 |
| South Australia          | +61 8 8201 6031 | +61 8 8201 6087 |
| Western Australia        | +61 8 9334 1555 | +61 8 9334 1668 |
| Northern Territory       | +61 8 8920 7001 | +61 8 8920 7011 |

### Your fax must include:

- Date and estimated time of arrival
- Flight number
- Air waybill number
- A short description of your cat/dog
- A phone number in New Zealand or Australia; should we need to contact you.
- The address at which the animal is to reside in Australia.

3. Cats and dogs imported to Australia from New Zealand are cleared at the first point of contact in Australia, i.e. animals destined for Canberra are first cleared in Sydney.

AQIS advises that at least 1 hour should be allowed for the animals to be released by airline cargo (including AQIS clearance). Connecting flights must not leave within an hour of the animal arriving in Australia.

If your animal is to connect with a domestic flight you will have to arrange for it to be moved from the international to the domestic terminal. Animal transport agencies can help you with this if required. [www.ipata.com](http://www.ipata.com)

### 4. AQIS clearance fees:

Please contact the AQIS state office to determine the costs involved with clearing your animal upon arrival in Australia.

Payment of the AQIS bill is usually collected by the airline with which your animal travels before leaving New Zealand. The AQIS payment should appear on the air waybill. AQIS then invoices the airline to recover the costs. If the air waybill has not incorporated these charges AQIS will require payment prior to releasing your animal/s.