

AsureQuality Limited
Certification of Cats and Dogs
for Export to Australia

June 2010

Manual Owner : _____

MAF Registration Number : _____

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AsureQuality Limited
Private Bag 14946, Panmure, Auckland
New Zealand

Amendment Page

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Background

By international agreement, the Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is responsible for the provision of live animal export health certification based on negotiated and agreed conditions between the importing and exporting countries. In the case of cats and dogs being exported from New Zealand to Australia, export health conditions have been negotiated so that these animals can enter Australia directly without the necessity of an import permit, or undergoing quarantine either before departing New Zealand or on arrival in Australia.

MAF has published Overseas Market Access Requirements (OMARs) which include specifications and guidelines. The relevant OMARs for the export of cats and dogs to Australia are listed in the Reference section and are available on the MAF website.

By agreement with the Australian Government, the provision of export certification of cats and dogs to Australia can be carried out in New Zealand by MAF Approved veterinary practitioners.

On behalf of MAF,ASUREQuality Limited administers the Approval of registered veterinarians in New Zealand to certify cats and dogs being exported to Australia, and is also responsible for the sale and distribution of the export certificates to Approved veterinarians. This means that ASUREQuality must maintain a documented system for the approval and appointment of veterinarians, provide copies of certificates as needed with, appropriate document control, and ensure that the requirements for certification standards are met. In the event of unsatisfactory performance, the approval of a veterinarian to certify on MAF's behalf may be removed.

The Manager of this system is:

Technical (Programme) Manager
Animal Exports
ASUREQuality Limited
Free Phone 0508 00 11 22

Definitions

Approved veterinarian – a New Zealand registered veterinarian approved by MAF to certify cats and dogs being exported to Australia

AQIS – Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Export certificate – a certificate setting out the conditions agreed between New Zealand and the importing country to be met regarding the live animal or animal germplasm to be exported

IATA – International Air Transport Association

Interviewing AQ veterinarian – an AQ veterinarian trained in the procedures and authorised by the National Manager to carry out interviews of veterinarians wishing to become approved to certify cats and dogs to Australia

MAF – Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

References

AQIS Information Sheet – The importation of dogs and cats into Australia from New Zealand

www.daff.gov.au/corporate_docs/publications/pdf/quarantine/anprog/infosh1.pdf

OMAR domaniec.aus – dogs and cats to Australia

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/exports/animals/omars/domaniec.aus.htm>

OMAR domsemec.aus – canine and feline semen to Australia

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/exports/animals/omars/domsemec.aus.htm>

Registered veterinarians approved by MAF to certify cats and dogs being exported to Australia

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/exports/animals/aus-vet-list.htm>

UK PETS scheme – sending your pet cat or dog to the United Kingdom – see MAF website

www.biosecurity.govt.nz/exports/animals/uk-pets-scheme.htm

Veterinary Council of New Zealand Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinarians.
Available in the current register of veterinarians. www.vetcouncil.org.nz

General Information

Enquiries

Practice Veterinarians are encouraged to ring the free phone number **0508 00 11 22** for information about becoming registered, and how to order certificates.

Only veterinary practitioners with current approval can sign export certificates for cats and dogs to Australia.

Enquiries of a technical nature can be referred on to Export Administration in the Hamilton office who deal with ordering and dispatch of certificates, or to an AsureQuality veterinarian.

About the Export Certificates

Note that there are two types of certificate now available;

EXPORT CERTIFICATE Cats and dogs exported from New Zealand to Australia

EXPORT CERTIFICATE Canine and feline semen exported from New Zealand to Australia

Each certificate has a unique identification number on the top right corner. AsureQuality Limited keeps inventory records for all certificates issued to approved veterinarians on behalf of MAF. The relevant details are recorded in the AsureQuality inventory when the certificate is dispatched to a veterinary clinic, and again when the certificate is issued by the veterinarian for the export of an animal.

Please note that it is important to send back the acknowledgement of receipt form when the certificates arrive at the clinic, as the certificates are controlled documents. It is also a requirement to send AsureQuality Limited a photocopy of the signed certificate when an export certificate is issued.

Please also notify AsureQuality of any cancelled or destroyed Export Certificates for the purpose of inventory control.

Each animal (or batch of semen) requires a separate certificate.

Approved veterinarians are responsible for the security and proper use of the export certificates in their custody.

Certificates are required to be stored away from public access and adequately secured when the Clinic is unoccupied.

A person who would have a conflict of interest should not sign an export certificate. Ownership, or part ownership of the animal or germplasm are situations in which conflicts of interest can exist. For details of conflict of interest, see the Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinarians.

It may be advisable to arrange for the client to come in for an interview to discuss the conditions on the certificate that must be met for an animal to be eligible for export to Australia. Most practices charge for the cost of the certificate when the client takes the certificate away for completion and signing of the owner declaration section.

Ordering Export Certificates

Officially numbered export certificates are available from Export Administration in the Hamilton office. Orders must be received on the Order Form 'Export certificates for cats and dogs to Australia' (see Appendix 1).

To order more export certificates, the completed order form should be faxed through to the AsureQuality Limited, Hamilton office
Fax 07 850 2803

or posted to the AsureQuality Limited, Hamilton office
Export Administration, AsureQuality Limited, Private Bag 3080, Hamilton.

The current version of the *Export Certificate for Dogs and Cats to Australia* is dated 12 April 2010. Where MAF approved veterinarians have outdated versions of the certificate, they are requested to return these to Jenine Connolly, AsureQuality Limited, Private Bag 3080, Hamilton. AsureQuality will replace these with the latest version of the *Export Certificate for Dogs and Cats to Australia*.

If an export certificate for export of **canine or feline semen** is required, please clearly specify this on the order form to avoid the wrong certificate being sent.

The cost of certificates charged to the veterinary practice includes the MAF costs to AsureQuality for the printing and administration of the certificates. See Appendix 5 for a breakdown of the costs of the certificates.

Orders for certificates are normally dispatched within 3 working days of receipt of the order, unless notified otherwise.

As well as the export certificates, an information pack is normally sent which contains relevant information and forms, and any updates to changes in certification requirements or changes in costs.

Certificates are routinely sent by ordinary post. If the veterinary clinic requires them urgently by courier, a \$5 courier fee applies.

When the veterinary practice receives the certificates, they are requested to return the form provided to acknowledge the receipt of the certificates. A copy of this form can be found in Appendix 2.

Once the export certificate is completed, the authorised veterinarian is to photocopy the signed certificate and send a photocopy to AsureQuality Limited, as well as keep a photocopy for his or her own clinic records.

Note that MAF require AsureQuality Limited to keep a register of the certificates sent out, and also to provide a monthly report on export certificate usage.

Export Health Certificate Procedures

Initial Enquiry or Interview

Where possible, arrange an interview to discuss the requirements with the client, including the need for any documentation and any testing or treatments that may be required.

See Appendix 4 - Checklist for Export for a list of issues to discuss.

Advise the client that they should contact an approved pet transport operator to arrange transportation and flight details.

Provide a certificate form **for each cat or dog** and discuss the contents regarding prohibition of certain breeds of dogs as well as the minimum residency clause for both cats and dogs (90 days in either NZ or Australia and at least 60 days outside of any quarantine restriction).

Arrange an appointment so that the clinical examination and final signing of the export health certificate can be completed within **72 hours** of the scheduled date of export.

Filling out the Export Certificate

When carrying out certification, it is important to comply with ethical certification requirements as listed in the Veterinary Council of New Zealand 'Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinarians' available from www.vetcouncil.org.nz or available in the current Veterinary Council register of veterinarians.

The approved veterinarian must make sufficient enquiries to satisfy themselves that:

- The person signing the declaration has the requisite first-hand knowledge of the information they are providing and is in a position to provide the declaration accurately and honestly.
- The person signing the declaration understands the export certificate condition for which they are providing information and the consequences of providing incorrect information and
- The approved veterinarian has no reason to doubt the integrity of the person providing the declaration.

The approved veterinarian should verify that all relevant clauses in the export certificate are complied with and, where relevant, obtain documentary evidence of verification. This verification could include copies of Council dog registration records, vaccination certificates, or Veterinary Clinic records that show that the animal has been resident in New Zealand for an appropriate length of time, or since birth.

Check that the identification of the animal matches the description, and includes details of any tattoo or microchip numbers where relevant. AsureQuality Limited recommends that all animals for export be identified by microchip.

At the clinical examination, question the owner to ensure that the animal meets the residency requirements. Verify that the animal is more than 8 weeks old, and in the case of a female is not more than 21 days pregnant, or suckling young at the time of export.

Where animals have previously been imported into New Zealand, a copy of the relevant documentation should be attached to the export certificate.

The statutory declaration section required in the certificate must be completed in the presence of and signed by a person authorised to sign statutory declarations (e.g. Justice of the Peace). The statutory declaration **must** be completed before signing the Veterinary certification, as one of the clauses relates to the statutory declaration.

No alterations or deletions to the **certificate conditions** are permitted apart from clauses that require a deletion such as 'either / or' clauses. **Where a deletion is required, the relevant part must be clearly deleted** or the animal's release by AQIS in Australia may be delayed.

Where deletions are required, it is better to use a ruler and rule a line through the clause to be deleted e.g. OR ii) ~~after the importation from a country~~

Section 3: Disease freedom for dogs – canine brucellosis (*Brucella canis*), canine ehrlichiosis (*Ehrlichia canis*) and leptospirosis due to *Leptospira canicola* are not endemic in New Zealand. Check that there has been no notification from MAF of any relevant changes in New Zealand's animal health status. Should New Zealand's health status change in this respect, it is likely that exports in progress will be stopped at the airport or quarantined upon arrival in Australia.

Section 4: Testing for *Ehrlichia canis* – if a dog has not lived all of its life in New Zealand and Australia, **or if there is not sufficient evidence that the dog has resided in New Zealand (i.e. lack of documentation)** it must be negative to a blood test for *Ehrlichia canis* antibody. This test must be carried out by the Investigation and Diagnostic Centre (IDC) Laboratory. The test required is an Indirect Fluorescent Antibody Test (IFAT or IFT), negative at 1:40 dilution. At least 2ml of blood in a 5ml red top vacutainer tube is required. Allow up to 5 working days for a result. Submission forms and current price charges are available from IDC, Ward Street, Upper Hutt.

Testing for *Leishmania* species – if a dog has not lived all of its life in New Zealand and Australia, **or if there is not sufficient evidence that the dog has resided in New Zealand (i.e. lack of documentation)** it must be negative to a blood test for *Leishmania* antibody. This test must be carried out by the Investigation and Diagnostic Laboratory (IDC) **prior to the scheduled date of export**. The test required is an Indirect Fluorescent Antibody Test (IFAT) *or an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), with negative test results*. At least 2ml of blood in a 5ml red top vacutainer tube is required (the sample taken for the *Ehrlichia canis* test can also be used for this test, provided enough sample volume is obtained). Allow up to two to three weeks for a result. Submission forms and current price charges are available from IDC, Ward Street, Upper Hutt.

Ph 04 526 5600 Fax 04 526 5601

Attach a copy of the test result to the Export Certificate.

Section 5: Treatment for *Babesia canis*. Delete the treatment regime that was not given.

In the case of a dog that has resided in Africa, there are some alternatives to needing to re-treat previously treated animals – See Appendix 6.

Note that it is recommended that the treatment for *Babesia canis* include a treatment with an external parasiticide after the last dose of imidocarb dipropionate. Imidocarb dipropionate is available as Forray-65™ by Hoechst, or Imizol™ by Coopers – these drugs are not readily available or registered for use in NZ. Contact NZFSA-Verification Agency, Auckland Airport (Ph 09 909 2706) who may be able to provide the drug.

Section 6: The animal needs to be examined within 72 hours of the scheduled time of departure from New Zealand. If there is a significant delay in the animal leaving the country, contact Exports, Pre-Clearance at Biosecurity NZ to see if the animal needs to be re-examined.

Freedom from clinical evidence of infectious or contagious disease would normally include examination (and where appropriate, treatment) for external parasites such as fleas and ear mites, and examination for any disease state that may affect the animal's fitness for travel.

See Appendix 7 - Clinical evidence of Infectious or Contagious Disease

'Clinical evidence' applies to the visual inspection and examination of the animal. It is up to the examining veterinarian using their own experience and skills to determine the health status of the animal. When an animal is currently under treatment for any clinical condition e.g. resolving skin lesions, provide a statement on the condition identified, and details of any current treatment on practice letterhead. This may help explain to quarantine officers the condition of the animal, and may facilitate the process of entering Australia.

For fitness to travel, the nature and duration of the voyage may need to be taken into account. Animals with severe respiratory or cardiac problems should not be transported overseas.

Female animals which are likely to give birth during the journey are not considered fit for travel. Animals in the last trimester of pregnancy should not be transported on long journeys. Females with suckling young and unweaned animals are not acceptable for transportation.

You must make the owner/exporter fully aware that if the health of the animal deteriorates between the time of the examination and the time of departure, then a further clinical examination and re-evaluation of the animal regarding suitability of fitness for travel will be required.

Cats and dogs must be transported to Australia in accordance with the container requirements specified in the IATA Live Animal Regulations – see page 14 and Appendix 8 for further information.

Errors in completing an export certificate may be corrected, providing the **full** signature of the signatory to the document and the date of correction are applied. The correction must be applied as close as practicable to the incorrect entry. Errors should be struck out so that the previous wording remains legible. A maximum of 4 corrections per document may be made and each error must be corrected only once.

Sign the export certificate using a different colour pen to the colour of the wording on the export certificate. Use of a blue or red pen is ideal. Green coloured inks do not always photocopy well.

The ideal **date format** is in the format *dd/mmm/yyyy* e.g. 30/SEP/2004

The **MAF Registration number** is the number assigned to the approved veterinarian once they have been through the appointment process. The MAF approved number is recorded on the front cover of the Manual issued to the approved veterinarian. If a veterinarian is unsure of their number, they can ring AsureQuality Limited to verify their registration number.

Photocopy the completed and signed export certificate to produce 4 photocopies. The **original must travel with the animal** when it leaves New Zealand, and is usually kept in an envelope taped to the animal cage during transportation.

Give the owner/exporter 2 copies to take – one for the owner/exporter and one for the airline, and keep one copy in the practice records.

Send 1 copy back to AsureQuality:
Export Administration
AsureQuality Limited
Private Bag 3080
Hamilton

Where supporting documentation needs to accompany the certificate, staple the supporting documentation to the original export certificate, and staple copies of the supporting documentation to the relevant photocopies of the export certificates.

Copies of Export Certificates and any supporting documentation must be held for a minimum period of 7 years.

Note that MAF require AsureQuality to keep a register of the certificates sent out and to send a monthly report on how many export certificates were used.

Professional fees charged to the owner/exporter for provision of certification are at the discretion of the certifying veterinarian.

Should a query or problem arise with certification either before or after the animal has been exported, contact your local AsureQuality Limited veterinarian or the Animal Imports and Exports Group, MAF Biosecurity NZ, Wellington, for advice and assistance.

If during auditing a problem is identified, you must make every effort to resolve the issue and ensure that it does not recur. The highest priority must be given to correcting problems created by the faulty certification within the stipulated time. In the event of your authority being revoked by MAF, ***you must not certify any more animals.***

Replacement Certificates

Where an export certificate needs to be replaced (e.g. lost) the approved veterinarian must issue a new export certificate with the following wording on the front page:

“Replacement of Export Certificate No dated which has been cancelled”

Amend the photocopy of the cancelled Export Certificate by adding:

“Cancelled, Replaced by Export Certificate No dated”

This procedure helps ensure that lost certificates are cancelled properly and are not able to be used.

Auditing of Export Certificates

Veterinarians providing certification services are accountable to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and may be subject to audit.

MAF, AsureQuality and the Australian authorities reserve the right to audit certification to ensure that standards are being maintained. AsureQuality will periodically audit completed certificates and advise both the certifying veterinarian and MAF of any non-compliance with documented procedures.

If wrong or false certification is detected, the certifying veterinarian will be notified in writing requesting an explanation. If investigations indicate that the certifying veterinarian is at fault, then MAF may censure, revoke the authorisation to certify, or recommend disciplinary proceedings to the Veterinary Council.

Procedures for approval as a certifying veterinarian

Veterinary practitioners wishing to obtain approval to provide export certificates for cats and dogs to Australia need to contact AsureQuality **0508 00 11 22**. The veterinarian must be currently registered in New Zealand to be eligible.

The cost of the application is available from AsureQuality and must be paid to AsureQuality Limited prior to, or at, the interview.

An AsureQuality Limited veterinarian will arrange a time for an interview to go through the various requirements and procedures associated with the export certification. The ethics of certification are also discussed, as there are potential consequences for wrong or false certification. General information relating to cats and dogs travelling overseas is also covered, including IATA requirements.

When the AsureQuality veterinarian is satisfied that the applicant has a thorough knowledge of the certification procedures, a declaration form is to be completed by the applicant. Once the application is processed, the applicant will receive notification of approval and a copy of the AsureQuality manual 'Certification of Cats and Dogs to Australia'. The current version of the procedures can also be accessed from the MAF Biosecurity website at:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/exports/animals/aus-vet-list.htm>

This site also has a searchable list of approved veterinarians and their addresses as notified.

When an approved veterinarian has a change of practice address or email address, it is important that AsureQuality Limited is notified to update the database and allow any changes in policies or procedures to be notified.

Cat and Dog Semen exported to Australia

The requirements for the export of cat and dog semen to Australia are different to those for the export of live animals.

An **import permit** from the Australian authorities is required for the export of canine and feline semen from New Zealand to Australia.

Some of the specific requirements include:

- identification of the donor
- residency and disease status
- examined by an Approved veterinarian on the day of semen collection
- the Approved veterinarian collected or supervised the collection of the semen
- semen was stored under the supervision of an Approved veterinarian until sealed for export

See OMAR domsemec.aus and the information on the export certificate for full details of the requirements.

AQIS must be notified at least 72 hours prior to the expected time of arrival in Australia.

Export of cats and dogs to countries other than Australia

United Kingdom

Cats and dogs imported into the United Kingdom from New Zealand may enter under the UK PETS scheme. To be eligible, they need to be identified by microchip, vaccinated against rabies, and blood tested with an acceptable rabies titre 6 months prior to shipping. If these requirements are not met the animal may have up to 6 months in quarantine after arrival.

For further information see the MAF Biosecurity website.

United States of America (except Hawaii)

As New Zealand is classified by the US Department of Agriculture as a rabies free country, there are no restrictions on the export of cats and dogs to the USA.

There is no requirement for an Export Certificate for cats and dogs going to the USA, but airlines normally require a certificate stating that the animal is fit to travel – such a certificate can be written on Veterinary Practice letterhead paper, and signed by a veterinarian.

Other countries

In general, other countries require an export certificate provided by a MAF veterinarian.

Animal Welfare Export Certificates (AWEC)

For cats and dogs travelling overseas where the journey time will be greater than 6 hours (airline flight or voyage by sea) an AWEC will be required. **Cats and dogs travelling to Australia by air are exempt from the requirement to have an AWEC.**

An AWEC can only be issued by an appropriately authorised MAF veterinarian.

Transport Requirements for Cats and Dogs

Most airlines require that cats and dogs be transported by an approved pet transporter.

The container used to transport the animal must meet the IATA Live Animal Regulations for construction and design. See Appendix 8. General requirements are that the container must be rigid and constructed of fibreglass, rigid plastic, or metal (some airlines will not carry wooden containers). The animal must have sufficient room to stand up normally without touching the roof, turn around, and lie down in a natural position. The floor must be solid and leak proof, and there must be sufficient ventilation. Cage mesh must be such that the animal cannot place its paws or nose outside the cage. Absorbent bedding should be used.

Water must be provided in a suitable container that can be refilled from the outside. Food should not be provided. For a long flight, a light meal 2 hours before check-in time can be given.

If wearing a collar, it should be firmly attached. If there is a chance of the collar coming off, it should be removed and attached to the outside of the cage.

Sedation is not recommended for air transport. Tranquillisers should only be used when a specific problem exists and should be administered by a veterinarian or a person who has been instructed in their use.

If the cage has been sealed with an official seal, this may only be removed by the appropriate authority in the country of destination. If the seal needs to be broken in the interests of the welfare of the animal, an official veterinarian of the country of destination should be informed first.

After arrival at their destination, the animal should be unloaded as soon as possible and checked to make sure that they are well.

Contact a local veterinarian soon after arrival to ascertain what disease control programmes, vaccination programmes or other health requirements are appropriate for the area where the animal will be residing.

Contact the local authority to find out what is required in the way of registration. In some areas of Australia cats are also required to be registered with the local authority.

Notification to AQIS

The exporter must advise the Australian Quarantine and Import Service (AQIS) of the expected arrival of the animal in Australia. The contact fax numbers for the various Australian states and the information that is required are listed in the AQIS Information Sheet (see Appendix 3 or refer to the AQIS website www.aqis.gov.au)

REQUEST FOR CATS & DOGS TO AUSTRALIA CERTIFICATES

DATE SENT: _____

PLEASE RETURN A COPY FOR MAF TO, AND REQUEST FORMS FROM:

JENINE CONNOLLY
AsureQuality Ltd
Private Bag 3080
HAMILTON
PH: 0508 00 11 22 FAX: 07 850 2801

Approved certifying veterinarians name: _____

Veterinary practice name: _____

Postal Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Telephone NO: _____ Fax NO: _____

Certificate Requirement Details

Priority of certificates	Normal	Urgent
Number of certificates required @ \$53.13 (Incl GST) per certificate		
By courier (\$5.00 fee charged for this)	Yes	No

EACH ANIMAL REQUIRES A SEPARATE CERTIFICATE

Office use only

1: Certificate NO's: _____

2: Date sent out: _____

3: Sent out by: _____

Appendix 2

AsureQuality Limited
Private Bag 3080
Hamilton

The enclosed certificates are in fulfilment of your order for Export Certificates for Cats and Dogs exported from New Zealand to Australia.

Export Certificate Numbers:

Please confirm receipt of these certificates by completing the cut-off section below and returning in the enclosed self-addressed envelope **within 2 working days** of receiving this order.

For any enquiries please phone **0508 00 11 22**

AsureQuality Limited
Private Bag 3080
Hamilton

Receipt to confirm arrival of **Export Certificates** for Cats and Dogs exported from New Zealand to Australia

Certificate Numbers:

Name of Approved Veterinarian:

Name of Veterinary Practice:

Signature:

Name:

Date:



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

Phone +61 2 6272 4454

Fax: +61 2 6272 3110

Web: www.daff.gov.au/aqis/cat-dogs

Email: animalimp@aqis.gov.au

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 eight (8) 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

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.

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) 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.

AQIS State Office	Phone	Fax
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

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.

Checklist for Export

- arrange interview to discuss requirements with client
- approved pet transport operator
- one animal per export certificate
- animal identification – may be tattoo, microchip or other appropriate ID
- animal older than 8 weeks of age
- not a prohibited breed of dog
- if pregnant, not more than 21 days pregnant
- residency in NZ – any documentation needed
- if previously imported, copy of biosecurity clearance
- blood test for *Ehrlichia canis* needed?
- blood test for *Leishmania species* needed?
- treatment for *Babesia canis* needed?
- Statutory Declaration signed
- animal examined within 72 hours of scheduled time of departure
- AQIS notified of expected arrival

Appendix 5

Cost of MAF Export Certificates for cats and dogs to Australia

MAF charge per certificate	\$22.25 plus GST	includes cost of certificate plus unit fee per animal
AsureQuality charge	\$25.00 plus GST	
Total	\$47.25 plus GST	= \$53.15

Alternative options for animals previously treated for *Babesia canis*

1. When dogs previously resided in Africa, then entered Australia before entering New Zealand, they would have been treated with imidocarb dipropionate upon entry into Australia. A copy of the AQIS Export Certificate (Biosecurity Clearance) should be attached to the MAF export certificate. An accepted modification to the export certificate wording is to delete both treatment regimes and write 'not applicable as dog has been imported from Australia and has not returned to Africa since importation – see attached copy of certificate'.
2. When dogs have been treated previously either in Africa or New Zealand an accepted modification to the export certificate is to delete both treatment options and write 'dog imported directly from Africa and received imidocarb treatment previously'

Clinical Evidence of Infectious and Contagious Disease

This statement, when signed during certification, only applies to the animal described in the certificate at the time of inspection and signing. "*Clinical evidence*" applies to the visual inspection and examination of the animal. It is up to the examining veterinarian using their own experience and skills to determine the actual health status of the animal. There is no requirement when performing this examination to use clinical pathology or other laboratory tests in order to explore further the health status of the animal.

In the case of animals that have been, or are currently under treatment for any infectious condition, a certificate on your practice letterhead should accompany the animal. The condition should be identified, the treatment explained and the current state described. An example of such a situation would be ringworm lesions that are responding to treatment and are no longer infective, but having minimal hair growth. Also, chronic skin lesions such as atopic dermatitis should be covered by a certificate from the veterinarian to explain to quarantine officials the condition of the animal. By taking these steps you will facilitate the entry of your client's animal at its destination.

You must make the owner/exporter fully aware that if the health of the animal deteriorates between the time of the examination and the time of departure, then a further clinical examination and re-evaluation of the animal regarding suitability of fitness for travel will be required.

Free from ectoparasites

If taken literally, this statement would prevent the export of many animals, as the veterinarian could not honestly guarantee this. During your examination if there is no **visual** evidence of ectoparasites (including ear mites) then this statement can be signed for. If there is visual evidence of fleas for example, treat them as you see fit and if you are satisfied that the treatment will be effective, complete the certification.

IATA Regulations

Container Requirements

Safety The container must be suitable to keep the animal inside at all times. It must protect the animal from unauthorised access i.e. the doors must be constructed so that accidental opening cannot occur, either from the inside or the outside, and the ventilation apertures must be small enough to prevent the protrusion of any part of the animal. It must be able to withstand other freight damaging it or causing the structure to buckle or bend. Joints of wooden containers must be made so that they cannot be damaged by the animal gnawing or clawing the container from the inside. It must be rigid enough to prevent the animal escaping through gaps in the seams or joints. It must not cause the animal to damage itself, i.e. all inside edges must be smooth or rounded. There must be no sharp projections (such as nails) upon which the animal could hurt itself. The ventilation apertures must be small enough to prevent any part of the animal to protrude from the container.

Animal welfare The size of the container must allow the animal to stand, turn and lie down in a natural manner.

It must be clean and, if being reused, it must have been thoroughly disinfected or sterilised.

It must be leak proof, with absorbent bedding that is suitable for the species. Straw is unacceptable as many countries prohibit its importation.

It must be constructed of non-toxic materials. Chemically impregnated wood may be poisonous, as are soldered tin water containers.

Food and water Food and water containers must be provided, either fixed inside the container or attached to it with a means of access provided, in case of undue delays during the journey. These containers must have rounded edges and be made of non-toxic materials suitable for the species.

Stocking density guideline For dogs and cats a maximum of two adult animals of comparable size up to 14Kg each, that are used to cohabitation, may be shipped in the same container. Animals over that weight must travel individually. Animals up to six months old from the same litter, up to a maximum quantity of three, may be shipped in the same container.

Container materials Containers may be constructed of the following materials; fibreglass, metal, rigid plastics, weld metal mesh, solid wood or plywood. Note that some airlines will not carry wooden containers.

Container design Containers made entirely of welded mesh or wire mesh are not suitable for air transport.

Rigid plastic containers are suitable for most breeds of dog but their acceptability is at the

discretion of the carrier. If a container has wheels, they must be removed or rendered inoperable.

Some rigid plastic containers may not be suitable for large dogs, or dogs that are aggressive. Specially constructed containers of hardwood, metal, plywood or similar material, with two secure door fasteners on each side, are acceptable.

Container size Each animal contained in the container must have enough space to turn about normally while standing, to stand and sit erect, and to lie in a natural position.

Container sides For two part, rigid plastic containers, all hardware must be present and properly installed. Plywood of a minimum of 12 mm or equivalent material must be used to line the outer framework. Side walls must be solid with sufficient ventilation as prescribed. The interior of the container must be smooth with no protrusions that the animals can bite or scratch to cause damage to the integrity of the container in any way.

The whole of one end of the container must be open, covered with bars, weld mesh or smooth expanded metal, which is securely fixed to the container so that the animal cannot dislodge it.

Handles Handling spacer bars or handles must be provided along the middle of both long sides of the container.

Floor The floor must be solid and leak-proof.

Roof The roof must be solid but ventilation holes are allowed over the surface provided that they do not reduce the integrity of the strength of the roof itself.

Door The door must form the whole of one end of the container. It can be either sliding or hinged.

There must be an adequate means of fastening and sealing for those containers destined for countries where sealing is required. Large doors will require additional hinges and two or three secure means of fastening to be fully secure.

The door must be constructed of plastic, welded or cast metal of sufficient gauge or thickness so as to preclude the animal from bending or distorting the door. Doors made of plastic material are permitted, provided that hinges and locking pins are made of metal of sufficient gauge and thickness.

For rigid plastic containers, the door hinge and locking pins must engage the container by at least 1.6cm beyond the horizontal extrusions above and below the door opening where the pins are fitted.

The shipper must ensure that all hardware and fasteners are in place and serviceable.

Ventilation The container must be adequately ventilated on three sides, with the majority of ventilation being provided on the upper part of the container. Ventilation is provided by an open end to the container (which can be the door) and by ventilation openings of a minimum of 2.5cm over the upper two thirds of the opposite end and the

Appendix 8

remaining two sides, at a distance of 10cm from centre to centre of each opening.

In the case of specially constructed large dog containers the open end must be covered by closely spaced metal bars or a double weld mesh with 1cm spacing between the meshes.

The total ventilated area must be at least 16% of the total surface of the four sides. The provision of additional holes on the roof or sides of the container or larger mesh covered holes in order to increase the ventilation is permitted.

All openings must be nose and paw-proof, in the case of cats and small dogs these may have to be covered with mesh. It is very important that no animal has any surface or edge at which it can gnaw or scratch.

Forklift spacers These must be provided for all containers where the total weight with the animal exceeds 60 kg.

Labelling A green "Live Animals" label is mandatory on all live animal consignments.

"This Way Up" labels are also mandatory and must be placed on all four sides of the container whenever possible. The label can be imprinted on the container.

Preparation for dispatch Tranquillisation of cats and dogs is not recommended.

Feed the animal only a light meal and a short drink approximately two hours before dispatch and exercise the animal immediately before dispatch.

Snub nose dogs such as boxers, bulldogs, pekinese and pugs, are affected more than other breeds by rarefied atmosphere and care must be taken to ensure that the front of the container has open bars from the top to the bottom of the box for ventilation. It is essential that the animal be free from respiratory troubles.

Shipment of females in heat (oestrus) is not recommended.

Females with suckling young and unweaned animals will not be accepted for carriage.

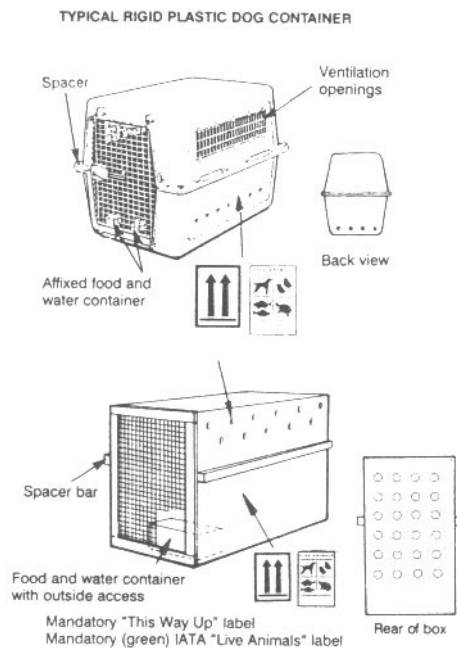
Weaned puppies younger than eight weeks must not be shipped due to possible dehydration effects in air transportation. Kittens likewise, younger than eight weeks must not be shipped. It is recommended that a veterinary certificate be provided for those under 12 weeks of age stating that the animal(s) is/are fit to be transported because of their small size, especially as some breeds render them more susceptible to the effects of dehydration.

A weaned litter may travel well together. The quantity must be related to the size and strength of the individual animals. Avoid shipping a weakling, which could be harmed by its companions. Certain national regulations require cats or dogs to be crated individually unless the consignment is a litter over 8 weeks of age with the mother.

For pet animals, a familiar article in the container helps to placate the animal. The animal's name must be marked on the outside of the container.

Emergency feed and water Animals do not normally require additional feeding during 12 hours following the time of dispatch. Water must be provided if total journey time exceeds 12 hours. Care must be taken not to overfill the container.

If feeding is required due to an unforeseen delay, meat, biscuits and canned pet food must be provided but care must be taken not to overfeed.



Sourced from IATA Regulations for Live Animals - Chapter 8