



CAYMAN ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE IMPORTATION OF DOGS AND CATS INTO THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS
The Animals Law (2003 Revision)**

Please read this brochure carefully, as the requirements may be different from those of other countries. Failure to meet these requirements exactly will result in your dog or cat being refused entry into the Cayman Islands. Your local veterinarian will be able to help you with the requirements.

A. PERMIT TO IMPORT

All dogs and cats entering the Cayman Islands must be accompanied by an import permit issued by the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture. You must provide evidence that your dog or cat complies with all of our import requirements before we will issue an Import Permit. Application forms are available from:

Veterinary Services
Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 459
Grand Cayman KY1-1106
Cayman Islands, B.W.I.

Physical address:
181 Lottery Road, Lower Valley
Bodden Town, Grand Cayman

Tel: (345) 947-3090
Fax: (345) 947-6501
Email: Colin.Wakelin@gov.ky
Or: Judith.Ebanks-Oyog@gov.ky

B. IMPORT REQUIREMENTS

In order to bring your dog or cat into the Cayman Islands, the following procedures must be carried out **in the order shown below**:

- 1) **Your dog or cat must first be permanently identified with a microchip transponder or tattoo.**
Only microchip brands accepted by the International Standards Organisation (Standard 11784 or Annex A to standard 11785) should be used. These include some AVID[®], Home Again[®], and Identichip[®] microchips... those that are read by 134.2 kHz scanners. Please note: not all microchips conform to this standard.
- 2) **After identification, a licensed veterinarian using an approved inactivated adjuvanted vaccine must then vaccinate your dog or cat against rabies.**
If your dog or cat was vaccinated before being fitted with a microchip or tattoo, it must be vaccinated again. The vaccine must be administered not less than 30 days (in the case of the primary vaccination) and not more than one year prior to shipment. Your dog or cat must be at least twelve (12) weeks old before the primary rabies vaccine is given.
- 3) **A blood test must be taken after vaccination to check for protective antibodies against rabies.** *The blood test, a neutralising antibody titration test, must be carried out by a laboratory approved by the government of the country of origin for carrying out such a test not more than 24 months prior to shipment. The test result must show a serum antibody level of at least 0.5 IU/ml and must bear the animal's permanent identification number.*
- 4) **Your dog or cat will be eligible for entry into the Cayman Islands six (6) months after the date the blood sample that gave a successful test result was drawn.**
- 5) **Within 14 days of the scheduled date of travel your dog or cat must be treated for tapeworms and ticks.**
*For tapeworms: a preparation containing praziquantel at a dose rate of 5mg/kg body weight.
For ticks: a topical preparation known to have residual action. A product containing fipronil is preferred. Other products include amitraz, pyrethrins, and permethrins.
NOTE The following products are **NOT** acceptable: Shampoos, collars, preparations that are licensed for control of fleas only (e.g. Program[®] Advantage[®], Revolution[®] or Sentinel[®]).*
- 6) **Also within 14 days of the scheduled date of travel, your dog or cat must be examined and issued with an Official Veterinary Health Certificate** (see section on Health Certificates).

The health certificate may be issued by a licensed veterinarian but must be endorsed (stamp or seal and signature) by an official veterinarian who is employed full time by the government of the country of origin (e.g. USDA, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, DEFRA in the UK).

- 7) **A completed Application form, Official Health Certificate, a copy of the rabies titre laboratory report and a non-refundable application fee (single entry: CI\$50.00 (US\$61.00); must be submitted to the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture for processing.**

*The documents will be processed and a reply given to you within **three (3) working days**.*

- 8) **If successful, an Import Permit will be issued. Unless otherwise specified, the import permit is valid for 14 days from the date of the Official Health Certificate.**

*The permit can be sent to you by fax or e-mail. Attach the permit or a faxed/printed copy of the permit, along with the **original** health documents to the carrier in which your dog or cat will be transported.*

- 9) **You must give at least 48 hours notice of expected date and time of arrival, along with details of the vessel or airline (e.g. Airline and flight number). See part G: Transportation Instructions.**

C. OFFICIAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE

An Official Veterinary Health Certificate is a document issued and endorsed by a veterinarian employed full time by the government of the country of origin (e.g. USDA, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, DEFRA). The document may be filled out and signed by a licensed veterinarian, but must also be endorsed by a government veterinarian.

The Official Health Certificate is valid for a period of 14 days only.

The official health certificate must have the following information:

- 1) The name and address of the owner/agent;
- 2) A description of the animal(s) to be imported;
- 3) The microchip or tattoo identification number of the animal(s);
- 4) The date of the last rabies vaccination (the vaccine make and batch number must be on the certificate);
- 5) The date of other routine vaccinations;
- 6) The seal number of the container in which the animal is being transported along with the signature and stamp of the official affixing the seal. (*See part G Transportation Instructions*);
- 7) Certificate statements as outlined below.

The health certificate must have the following statements:

As best as can be ascertained the animal is not infected with any communicable disease and is free from external parasites.

- 1) The animal has not been kept within 30 miles of an area officially quarantined for Foot and Mouth Disease during the past 30 days (this does not apply to dogs and cats arriving directly from territories recognised as free from Foot and Mouth disease, e.g. the UK, USA, Canada or CARICOM territories).
- 2) The animal was kept since birth or has been continually resident in the country of origin for the 6 months prior to shipment and as best as can be ascertained has not been exposed to rabies or has not been present within the past 6 months in an officially quarantined or designated rabies area.
- 3) The animal has been treated on the day of examination with an acaricidal preparation, which is known to have residual action against ticks (include the name of the acaricidal product).
- 4) The animal has been treated on the day of examination with a preparation containing praziquantel at a dose rate of 5mg/kg body weight, which is known to be effective against tapeworms (include the name of the tapeworm product).
- 5) The animal was subjected to a neutralising antibody titration test within the past 24 months with a result of 0.5IU/ml or greater (attach a copy of the rabies laboratory report).

The certificate should be written in English. In such circumstances as may be warranted, it should also be written in a language understood by the certifying veterinarian.

D. PROHIBITIONS

1. In accordance with the Animals Law (2003 Revision), no animal of any description may be imported into the Cayman Islands from any country in Asia, Africa or Central and South America. Other territories from which dogs and cats are prohibited are Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.
2. Certain breeds of dogs or crosses of such breeds are prohibited from entering the Cayman Islands. Genetic material such as semen and embryos from these breeds are also prohibited.

These breeds include, but are not necessarily limited to:

Mastiff Breeds, including:	Staffordshire Terrier,	Other breeds:
Rottweiler,	Staffordshire Bull Terrier,	Chinese Shar-Pei,
Japanese Tosa,	Bull Mastiff,	Mallanois,
Dogo Argentino,	Neapolitan Mastiff,	Japanese Akita,
Fila Brasileiro,	Dogue de Bordeaux,	Catahoula Leopard Dog.
Pit Bull Terrier,	American Bulldog,	

E. ELIGIBILITY FOR IMPORTATION

These conditions apply to specified countries or territories in which rabies is absent or well controlled. These are as follows:

a) Territories recognised as being rabies free by the Cayman Islands Government:

Antigua, Australia, Barbados, Bermuda, Great Britain, Hawaii, Ireland (Rep), Jamaica, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, St Vincent.

b) Territories recognised where rabies is well controlled:

Anguilla, Aruba, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Curacao, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guadeloupe, Hawaii, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Martinique, Monaco, Montserrat, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Martin, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, US Virgin Islands, USA, Vatican.

Notwithstanding section D 1., territories not listed above may make representation to the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture for inclusion in the above lists.

F. IMPORT PERMIT

Completed application forms, all supporting documents and the non-refundable application fee must be submitted to the Department of Agriculture. Upon successful completion of the import requirements, an import permit will be issued.

Single entry permit (Non-refundable Application fee CI \$50.00 (US\$61.00)): this permit is valid for 14 days from the date of the Official Health Certificate. This permit is appropriate for dogs and cats moving to the Cayman Islands on a permanent or long-term basis and for all dogs and cats entering the Cayman Islands for the first time.

Payment can be in the form of a bank draft or International Money order or a cheque drawn on a Cayman Islands bank, made payable to the Cayman Islands Government.

* **There is a Multiple entry permit /Animal Passport application** (Non-refundable Application fee CI \$150.00 (US\$183.00)) **available:** valid for a period of one year. This permit is appropriate for dogs and cats travelling to and from the Cayman Islands more than once a year. With this permit, there is no need to apply for an import permit with each entry; however a new Official Health Certificate must be obtained with each entry. **Your dog or cat must be resident in the Cayman Islands at the time of application for a passport.** Passports cannot be issued to dogs and cats entering the Cayman Islands for the first time. Application forms are available at the Department of Agriculture.

NOTES ON ANIMAL PASSPORTS

- i. The Animal Passport expires one year after the date of issue and can be renewed on an annual basis provided that there is no lapse in the annual rabies booster vaccination.
- ii. When applying for renewal of the passport you must provide evidence of rabies vaccine history such as copies of both the current and the previous rabies vaccination certificates.
- iii. Laboratory tests to determine the level of protection must be performed every 24 months. It is recommended that these be performed 21 days after the date of that year's rabies vaccination. These test results must also be provided, if necessary, when applying for renewal of a multiple entry permit/passport.

- iv. If your dog or cat's stay outside the Cayman Islands is more than 14 days, a new Official Health Certificate (Section C.) must be obtained and presented along with the passport every time the animal re-enters the Cayman Islands.
- v. Under most circumstances, a dog or cat qualifying under these conditions may leave and re-enter the Cayman Islands having obtained an Official Export Permit and treated for ticks and tapeworm provided the length of stay abroad is less than 14 days.

G. TRANSPORTATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. All animals travelling to the Cayman Islands must do so by the most direct route possible.
2. Animals travelling by air must be carried in an approved container, which meets standards set, by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
3. All documents accompanying the animal must be affixed to the container.
4. If travelling other than by direct route from the country of origin, through a territory not on the approved list, the door of the container must be sealed with a government approved seal in the country of origin before the animal is loaded onto the aircraft or vessel with the number on the seal entered onto the health certificate by an airline or government official (e.g., agriculture, customs).

H. INSPECTION ON ARRIVAL

Possession of a valid Import Permit does not guarantee entry. All animals and documents are subject to examination at the port of entry by an approved inspector. Should the animal fail to meet entry requirements, the Director of Agriculture may at his discretion and at the expense of the importer, order that the animal be refused entry and returned immediately or be destroyed. Detention or quarantine is **NOT** an option in the Cayman Islands.

All dogs staying in the Cayman Islands for longer than 30 days must be licensed with the Department of Agriculture.

THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ENTRY OF ANY ANIMAL FOR ANY REASON.