



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture,**  
**Fisheries and Forestry**  
Australian Quarantine and  
Inspection Service

## *Information Sheet*

*The importation of dogs and cats into Australia  
from New Zealand.  
No quarantine required.*

July 2006

Contact us by e-mail at [animalimp@aqis.gov.au](mailto:animalimp@aqis.gov.au) or by ph +612 6272 4454 or by fax +612 6272 3110

### **E L I G I B I L I T Y**

#### **Residency**

Dogs and cats must have been continuously resident in New Zealand for 90 days immediately prior to shipment, or since birth, or since direct importation from Australia. The animal must not have been in quarantine or under quarantine restrictions in the 60 days immediately prior to shipment.

#### **Age at time of export**

Dogs and cats must be more than two months of age.

#### **Pregnancy**

Female dogs and cats must not be more than 42 days pregnant at the time of export.

#### **Breeds**

Under the legislation of the Australian Customs Service (ACS) dogs of the following breeds are not eligible for importation into Australia. The ACS can be contacted on 61 2 6245 5484 or 1300 363 263

- dogo Argentino
- fila Brasileiro
- Japanese tosa
- Pit bull terrier or American pit bull
- Presa Canaria

Under the legislation of Environment Australia domestic/non-domestic animal hybrids eg bengal cats or wolf crosses are not eligible for import, unless they are proven to be 5th generation or more away from any pure-bred non-domestic ancestor. Please contact Wildlife Permits and Enforcement Section, Environment Australia on 02 6274 1111 for further information.

### **P E R M I S S I O N T O I M P O R T**

An Import Permit is not required.

A Statutory Declaration signed by the exporter is required that:

- identifies the dog/cat by breed, sex and age
- states that dog/cat has been continually resident in New Zealand or Australia for the 90 days immediately preceding export to Australia, or since birth
- states that the dog is not a Pit bull terrier, Japanese tosa, dogo Argentino, fila Brasileiro or a Presa Canaria.

## HEALTH AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The animal must also be accompanied by a health certificate signed by a [registered veterinarian](#) (a veterinarian authorised to certify on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry) certifying that:

- New Zealand is free from rabies
- [Dogs only] canine brucellosis, canine ehrlichiosis 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 resided 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 it's 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, a negative test (IFAT at 1:40) result for *Ehrlichia canis* must be presented to the MAFF approved veterinarian.

## TRANSPORT

The dog/cat 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 your airline. The IATA standards have been developed to prevent escape and injury during transportation.

Dogs and cats must travel as manifest cargo in the live animal area of the hold.

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

## QUARANTINE

Any animal arriving in Australia having not met the above requirements may be ordered into quarantine or returned to New Zealand at the importer's expense.

## I M P O R T A T I O N   P R O C E D U R E S

1. Documentation must be in order and all import requirements must be met.
2. AQIS must be given at least three days notice of the animals arrival in Australia. If the dog is a disability assistance dog, please inform AQIS of this. This should be done by faxing the AQIS Veterinary Officers located in the state in which your pet will first arrive in Australia.

Fax Numbers		Your fax must include
NSW	02 8334 7430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Date and estimated time of arrival</li><li>• Flight number</li><li>• Air waybill number</li><li>• A short description of your pet</li><li>• A phone number in New Zealand or Australia; should we need to contact you</li><li>• The address at which the animal is to reside in Australia</li></ul>
Victoria	03 8318 6965	
Queensland	07 3246 8798	
SA	08 8201 6087	
WA	08 9334 1668	
NT	08 8920 7011	

3. Cats and dogs imported 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 pet 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.

4. The AQIS costs to clear your pet are as follows:

\$10.00 Quarantine entry per animal

\$35.50 Document clearance per animal

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