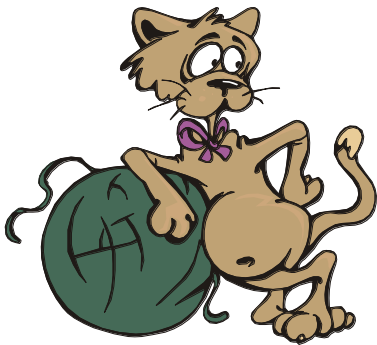


Importing Pets



into Japan

<http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/>

<http://www.maff.go.jp/ags/english/index.html>



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE MCCS Marine & Family Program - Resources

Japan new quarantine system started November 6, 2004 for dogs, cats, foxes, raccoons and skunks.

Dogs and cats brought to Japan on planes (or ships) arriving after June 6 2005 are subject to the new quarantine system.

Guide to importing dogs, cats and other animals subject to animal quarantine from regions other than the designated regions into Japan (final revision: February, 2005)
The rules in this document are applicable to all regions except the designated regions, which are: Cyprus, Singapore, Taiwan, Iceland, Ireland, Sweden, Norway, the United Kingdom (of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii and Guam.

Dogs, cats, foxes, raccoons, and skunks imported into Japan must undergo import quarantine, in accordance with the Rabies Prevention Law (and in case of dogs, also the Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control Law). On condition that the following criteria have been fulfilled on arrival in Japan, the quarantine period for a dog or cat will be up to 12 hours. (Quarantine Period: SOFA status personnel page 22)

Any dog or cat that has not fulfilled these criteria will be kept at an Animal Quarantine Station for the necessary quarantine period (up to 180 days). All foxes, raccoons and skunks will be subject to a 180-day detention inspection, regardless of the existence of preliminary treatments and certification.

Depending on the results of import inspection, pets may be rejected to enter Japan. This guide explains the necessary preliminary treatments and procedures, and import quarantine and related issues on arrival in Japan for pet.

Pets or animals as defined in this document: dogs, cats, foxes, skunks, raccoons (see section 6 for species list)

Certifications from the responsible government agency of the exporting country: In accordance with this guide, the importer must obtain certificates issued by the responsible government agency of the exporting country. We suggest using Japan's recommended forms (Form A, Form C). Form A and Form C can be obtained from the Animal Quarantine Service (<http://www.maff-aqs.go.jp>). (See section 1 (8) for details.)

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In order for the quarantine to be completed within 12 hours, a dog or cat that arrives in Japan must meet all of the conditions in parts 1. **To meet the conditions of part 1, preparation normally needs to begin 7 months before arrival in Japan.** Any dog or cat that does not meet any of the conditions of parts 1 will undergo a detention at an Animal Quarantine Station for the necessary period (up to 180 days).

Foxes, raccoons and skunks will be subject to 180-day quarantine regardless of the existence of preliminary treatments and certification. However, in order to prevent any animals infected with rabies from traveling beyond borders, to ensure appropriate health care and to prevent diseases and accidents during the detention period, please complete microchip implantation (refer to 1 (1)) and clinical inspection before departure (refer to 1 (7)), and obtain certification of these measures from the appropriate exporting country government agency (refer to 1 (8)).

Depending on the results of import inspection, pets may be rejected to enter Japan.

1. Preparation before import

Please make preparations in the following order.

Furthermore, (1) (2) (3) and (7) below must be stated on the certificate issued by the responsible exporting country government agency (see section 1 (8)). We advise that you first obtain the certification forms recommended by Japan (Form A, Form C), then

have the veterinarian who treated the animal fill in the necessary items, and finally obtain endorsement from the responsible exporting country government agency. The recommended certification forms can be obtained from the Animal Quarantine Service (<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/index.html>).

(1) Microchip implanting

Your pet needs to be implanted with a microchip that is compliant with International Standards Organization (ISO) standards 11784 and 11785. Please follow the instructions for the implanting position and be sure to confirm that the microchip has been properly inserted after implantation. Furthermore, at the times of rabies vaccination, blood sampling for serological test for rabies antibody, and clinical inspection before departure, make sure to have the microchip number read by a reader to identify the individual. For microchips whether already implanted or newly done, that are not ISO (11784 and 11785) standard compliant, the importer is required to provide a reader at the time of import so that the microchip number can be confirmed. The microchip number must be noted in the certification from the responsible exporting country government agency (see 1 (8)). During import inspection at the time of arrival in Japan, if the microchip number is not confirmed or the microchip number is not the same as that on the inspection certificate, the animal will be subject to a 180-day quarantine period or be rejected to enter Japan.

(2) Rabies immunization (dogs and cats)

Time of vaccination: after microchip implantation

After microchip implantation, rabies vaccination should be given 2 or more times (only inactive vaccines that meet the standards of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) will be accepted). Inoculation by inactive vaccine before microchip implantation or by live vaccine will not be recognized, and re-inoculation will be necessary in these cases. Dogs or cats must be at least 91 days old at the time of immunization. Furthermore, the second inoculation shall be conducted at least 30 days after the first and within the effective period of the first immunization. Moreover, if the date of arrival in Japan is past the effective immunization period, please conduct booster immunization.

(3) Serological test for rabies neutralizing antibody (dogs and cats)

Time of blood sampling: After completion of microchip insertion and 2 or more rabies immunizations (see above), and within the effective immunization period of the last inoculation.

Send a blood sample to a laboratory designated by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan for rabies antibody test. The test must show that the antibody titer is 0.5 IU/ml or above. This test result will remain valid for 2 years from the time the blood sample was taken. Please be aware that if the animal does not arrive in Japan within 2 years, these test results will no longer be usable.

The date of the blood sampling, the laboratory and the test result shall be noted on the certificate issued by the responsible exporting country government agency. In addition, please present the result notification issued by the laboratory to the Animal Quarantine Service at the time of arrival in Japan (refer to 1 (8)).

Before blood collection and shipment to a designated laboratory, please ask the designated laboratory how to apply for the test, label the blood container and send the sample, and if the sample needs treatment before sending to the laboratory.

At the time of blood collection, confirm the microchip number with a reader. Please use a sealed container that will not leak during shipping of the blood. Please send the completed application forms for the laboratory with the signature of the veterinarian who conducted the blood collection on along with the blood sample.

Please note that designated laboratories will be update (through new authorization and deauthorization), so please check with the Animal Quarantine Service (<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/index.html>) for the latest information.

(4) Waiting period before export after confirmation of antibody presence (dogs and cats)

In order to reduce the detention period to 12 hours or less at the time of arrival in Japan, the dog or cat is advised to arrive in Japan more than 180 days and less than 2 years from the blood sampling date as described in the previous section. If the animal arrives in Japan before the passage of 180 days since the date of the blood sample, detention will be required for the insufficient number of days at an Animal Quarantine Station.

Note) If the rabies immunization period is exceeded during the waiting period, you must have the animal given booster immunization (refer to 1 (2)).

(5) Advance notification

Any person intending to import an animal covered by this document (hereafter, “importer”) must submit a notification to the Animal Quarantine Station with jurisdiction over the airport (seaport) of planned arrival at least 40 days before the arrival of the ship or airplane carrying the animal by FAX or mail. For dogs, this should be a “NOTIFICATION OF IMPORT INSPECTION OF DOG ”, and for other animals, this should be a “NOTIFICATION OF IMPORT OF ANIMALS UNDER THE RABIES PREVENTION LAW.” If there is a change or additional information to be provided, a “Modification on notification of import of animals” should also be submitted”. Notifications and Change Notifications are available from the Animal Quarantine Service (<http://www.maff-aqs.go.jp>). The Animal Quarantine Service may contact the importer about the quarantine plan. Please clearly indicate contact information (telephone number, fax number and/or e-mail address) on the Notification. (For the Animal Quarantine Station with jurisdiction over the airport (seaport) of arrival please refer to part 5.)

In addition, please inform us at the time of providing the Notification if the importer desires to put the animals that are to be kept in quarantine for more than 12 hours after arrival in Japan at a Animal Quarantine Service detention facility other than that of the Animal Quarantine Station with jurisdiction over the airport (seaport) of arrival. (For detention facility locations, please refer to part 3(2).)

(6) Approval of import inspection of animals

When the Notification is received, the Animal Quarantine Station will issue the importer an “Approval of import inspection of animals”, which will normally be sent to the person by FAX, e-mail or mail who submitted the Notification. If the Notification needs be sent to another party, please inform us at the time of submission.

At the time of pet import, the receipt number will be necessary, so please make a careful note of it. And you will be required to show the “Approval of import inspection of animals” by airline / ship staff when you check in or you ship your pets.

(7) Clinical inspection before departure

Before departure (2 days or less before boarding as possible), have a veterinarian give the pet a clinical inspection to confirm that it does not have or is not suspected of having rabies (in the case of dogs, rabies and leptospirosis) (refer to section 1 (8)).

(8) Obtaining a health certification from the responsible exporting country government agency

The importer shall obtain a health certificate issued by the responsible exporting country government agency and submit it to the Animal Quarantine Station at the time of arrival in Japan. If the certificate is signed by a private veterinarian who conducted the clinical check or the treatments, an endorsement from the responsible exporting country government agency (signature of the government veterinarian, name and seal or stamp of the agency, signed date) must be provided by the time of arrival in Japan otherwise the certification will not be considered valid. For certification, we advise the use of the forms recommended by Japan (Form A, Form C). These certification forms are available from the Animal Quarantine Service (<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/index.html>).

【Main Certification Items】

Dogs and cats

- ① Microchip number (standard, number, date of insertion, insertion position)
- ② Rabies immunizations with inactive vaccine at proper times and intervals (inoculation date, name and address of the inoculating veterinarian, effective immunization period, product name, manufacturing company and batch number)
- ③ Results of serological tests on rabies antibody (including sampling date, name and address of the veterinarian who took the blood sample, laboratory name and designation number, antibody titer and results notification from the laboratory)
- ④ Not infected nor suspected of being infected with rabies (in the case of dogs, rabies and leptospirosis)

⑤ Immunizations for diseases other than rabies and parasite treatment (dates of treatments, address and name of the veterinarian who administered the treatments, vaccine effectiveness period, product names)

Foxes, skunks and raccoons

- ① Microchip number (standard, number, date of insertion, insertion position)
- ② Not infected nor suspected of being infected with rabies
- ③ Parasite treatment (dates of treatments, address and name of the veterinarian who administered the treatments, product names)

Recommended treatments and measures

We recommend the following measures for pets that are to be imported into Japan. In particular, for pets that will be kept for quarantine for more than 12 hours after arrival in Japan, we strongly recommend immunizations and parasite treatment in advance of arrival for the health of the animals and sanitary control at the quarantine facilities.

(1) Immunization

We recommend that the following immunizations be given to dogs and cats that are 91 days old or older 30 days prior to their arrival in Japan (within the vaccine immunization effectiveness period).

Dogs: distemper, contagious hepatitis (Adenovirus type II acceptable), parvovirus infectious disease trivalent vaccine (parainfluenza, leptospirosis, coronavirus infectious disease immunizations are also suggested)

Cats: feline viral rhinotracheitis, feline calicivirus, feline panleukopenia trivalent vaccine

In case of animals under 91 days old, consult the veterinarian and undertake inoculation as much as possible at the times and at the frequency that the animals can benefit from immunization.

(2) Parasite treatment

We recommend the following parasite treatment before departure (no more than 4 days before boarding).

External parasites: Treat with medicines effective against mites and fleas, and at the time of export have a clinical inspection to confirm that the animal is free from these parasites.

Internal parasites: administer medicine effective against nematodes and tapeworms.

(3) Transport cage

We recommend the following to avoid unwelcome happenings like injury or escape, and to ensure safe and comfortable transport.

- Put each animal in a separate transport cage whenever possible.
- Make sure that the transport cage complies with International Air Transport Association (IATA) guidelines, and that the animal can freely stand, sit, lie down, sleep and turn around and that the cage has sufficient openings for air circulation. Furthermore, the animal should not be able to put its nose or paws through the openings or wire mesh and the cage should be constructed to prevent escape.

(4) Scheduled arrival communication

In order to make arrival procedures go smoothly, 1 to 4 days before arrival in Japan, contact the Animal Quarantine Station with jurisdiction over the scheduled arrival airport (seaport) by telephone, fax or e-mail and provide the advance notification receipt number, flight number (ship name), scheduled arrival airport (seaport) and scheduled arrival time information.

(5) Health condition for transport and quarantine

The following types of pets are not suited to transport and detention, so we can't recommend importation. If importation is unavoidable, please consult with your veterinarian beforehand about whether the animal can endure transport and detention.

- weak infants and old animals
- pregnant and lactating animals
- animals that have a history of illness, are currently receiving medication (other than for parasite treatment), or have injuries, etc.

Import quarantine (Quarantine Period: SOFA status personnel page 22)

(1) Arrival inspection

Upon the arrival of a pet in Japan, the importer must immediately submit the import inspection application form to the Animal Quarantine Station that has jurisdiction over the arrival airport (seaport), and the pet must undergo import quarantine. At this time, please present the certificate issued by the exporting country government agency and other necessary documents. An animal quarantine officer of the Animal Quarantine Service will examine the documents and check the pet. The quarantine period for pets that can be individually identified and that can be verified to meet the conditions of the listed items on the certificate will be 12 hours or less. In most cases, this inspection should not take a long time. If the conditions are not met, detention (up to 180 days) at an Animal Quarantine Station will be required. All foxes, raccoons and skunks will be subject to a 180-day detention inspection, regardless of the existence of preliminary treatments and certification.

Furthermore, blood tests inspections may be conducted at random.

(2) Detention

For detention, the animal will be held in isolation from other animals at the Animal Quarantine Station nearest the arrival airport (seaport) and inspected to confirm that it is free from rabies. Laboratory tests will be conducted as necessary. The detention period

and location will normally be decided by the Animal Quarantine Service, but if you have a request for detention at a specific Animal Quarantine Station, please inform us at the time of submission of the Notification.

Inspection during detention will be conducted free of charge by the Animal Quarantine Service, but the importer will be liable for all other associated costs, including for transportation from the port of arrival to the place of detention, feeding and other care during detention, onsite veterinary examinations and treatments, and costs related to the return, abandonment and disposal of the pet.

Professional caretaker agents can be hired to provide care during detention, but such caretaker agents are stationed only at four facilities: Yokohama, Narita Airport, Chubu Airport and Kansai Airport (as of February, 2005) . For other locations, it is necessary for the importer to hire a caretaker in advance.

The size of detention rooms, environment, and entry and departure regulations and other things can differ from station to station. For more information about these differences, please contact the Animal Quarantine Service.

Animal Quarantine Stations with detention facilities (and nearest air and sea ports)

Narita Branch* (Narita Airport), Kansai Airport Branch* (Kansai Airport), Chubu Airport Branch* (Chubu International Airports, Nagoya Seaports),, Okinawa Branch (Naha Airport, Naha Seaport), Hokkaido Sub-branch (Shin Chitose Airport, Tomakomai Seaport), Kagoshima Airport Sub-branch (Kagoshima Airport, Kagoshima Seaport), Animal Quarantine Service* (Yokohama Head Office: Keihin Seaport, Haneda Airport), Kobe Branch (Kobe Seaport), Osaka Sub-branch (Osaka Seaport), Moji Branch (Kanmon Seaport)

*Detention facilities where professional caretaker agents are stationed

Importer obligations

Other than the inspections at the time of arrival in Japan and during the quarantine period, the importer is responsible for all aspects of importation and detention and will bear all related costs. These include inspections and treatments in the exporting country, document preparation, pet transport, import inspection application procedures at the time of arrival in Japan, caretaking and feeding during quarantine, onsite examination and treatment by private veterinarians, procedures after the completion of inspection, and reclaiming, return and disposal of the pet. Furthermore, examination and treatment by private veterinarians will only be allowed at the detention facility. Importers should only import pets after they understand and accept these responsibilities.

List of Animal Quarantine Stations with jurisdiction over airports (seaports) (as of November 2004)

Animal Quarantine Stations with jurisdiction over the main airports (seaports) are as follows.

Name	Airport (Seaport)	Phone #	Fax #	E-Mail Address
Yokohama Head Office (Animal Quarantine Division)	Keihin Seaport	81(0)45-751-5921	81(0)45-751-5951	y-dobutu@maff-aqs.go.jp
Hokkaido Sub-branch	Tomakomai Seaport, Shin Chitose Airport	81(0)123-24-6080	81(0)123-24-6091	chitose@maff-aqs.go.jp
Narita Branch Quarantine 1st Division	Narita International Airport	81(0)476-32-6664	81(0)476-30-3011	na-k1@maff-aqs.go.jp
Narita Branch Quarantine 2nd Division	Narita International Airport	81(0)476-34-2342	81(0)476-34-2338	na-k2@maff-aqs.go.jp
(Cargo inspection)	Narita International Airport	81(0)476-32-6655	81(0)476-30-3012	n-kamotu@maff-aqs.go.jp
Haneda Airport Sub-branch	Tokyo International Airport	81(0)3-5757-9752	81(0)3-5757-9758	haneda@maff-aqs.go.jp
Chubu Airport branch	Chubu International Airport	81(0)5669-38-8577	81(0)569-38-8578	meiku@maff-aqs.go.jp
Nagoya Branch	Nagoya Seaport	81(0)52-651-0334	81(0)52-661-0203	ng-ken@maff-aqs.go.jp
Kansai Airport Branch Quarantine Division	Kansai International Airport	81(0)724-55-1956	81(0)724-55-1957	ka-ken@maff-aqs.go.jp
(Cargo inspection)	Kansai International Airport	81(0)724-55-1958	81(0)724-55-1959	k-kamotu@maff-aqs.go.jp
Kobe Branch	Kobe Seaport	81(0)78-222-8990	81(0)78-222-8994	ko-ken@maff-aqs.go.jp
Osaka Sub-branch	Osaka Seaport	81(0)6-6575-3466	81(0)6-6575-0977	osaka@maff-aqs.go.jp
Moji Branch	Kanmon Seaport	81(0)93-321-1116	81(0)93-332-5858	mo-ken@maff-aqs.go.jp
Hakata Sub-branch	Hakata Seaport	81(0)92-262-5285	81(0)92-562-5283	hakata@maff-aqs.go.jp
Fukuoka Airport Sub-branch	Fukuoka Airport	81(0)92-477-0080	81(0)92-477-7580	fukuoka@maff-aqs.go.jp
Kagoshima Airport Sub-branch	Kagoshima Airport	81(0)995-43-9061	81(0)995-43-9066	kagosima@maff-aqs.go.jp
Naha Airport Sub-branch	Naha Airport	81(0)98-857-4468	81(0)98-859-1646	naha@maff-aqs.go.jp
Okinawa Branch	Naha Seaport	81(0)98-861-4370	81(0)98-861-0093	oki-ken@maff-aqs.go.jp

N.B. Except emergency please contact by fax or e-mail in Japanese or English.

Species of animals covered (as of November 2004)

The animals covered by the import conditions in this guide include those listed below and first-generation hybrids.

Types of Animals	Family	Genus	Species
dogs	Canidae	Canis	familiaris
cats	Felidae	Felis	catus
raccoons	Procyonidae	Procyon	all species
foxes	Canidae	Vulpes	all species
		Dusicyon	all species
		Alopex	all species
		Otocyon	all species
skunks	Mustelidae	Mephitis	all species
		Spilogale	all species
		Conepatus	all species

Source : A WORLD LIST OF MAMMALS WITH JAPANESE NAMES (Heibonsha Limited,1998)

Bringing dogs and cats back to Japan after direct export to another country

When returning dogs and cats that did not receive the procedure described in sections 1 (1), (2) and (3) before leaving Japan will be applied standard import procedures. While abroad, please fulfill all of the treatments and procedures of parts 1 and 2 above.

If accompanying a certificate issued by the Animal Quarantine Service verifying that a microchip has been implanted and that rabies vaccinations (2 or more times) were given, and results of serological test for rabies antibody meet the necessary level, dogs or cats return to Japan within 2 years from the date of the serological tests, the quarantine at time of arrival may be completed within 12 hours. However, if while abroad, the rabies immunization period of effectiveness is completed, booster immunization must be provided before then. Furthermore, in accordance with part 1(5) above, please submit a Notification document at least 40 days in advance of return to Japan.

Dogs and cats that meet these conditions will need the following documents. However, if conditions are not met, the animal will be subject to a long period of quarantine (up to 180 days).

Necessary documents on return to Japan

(1) Certificate issued by the Animal Quarantine Service verifying microchip implantation, 2 or more rabies vaccination and blood test result for rabies antibody, at the time of departure from Japan

(2) (for dogs or cats that was given rabies booster immunization while abroad)
Rabies immunization certificate issued by the responsible government agency of the exporting country (inoculation date, name and address of the inoculating veterinarian,

immunization effectiveness period, product name, manufacturing company, manufacture number)

(3) Certificate issued by the responsible exporting country government agency that the animal is not infected nor suspected of being infected with rabies (in the case of dogs, not infected nor suspected of being infected with rabies and leptospirosis)

The test results of the rabies virus serum neutralizing antibody titer are valid for 2 years from the date of the blood sampling. Please note that dogs and cats that return to Japan more than 2 years after the date of the blood sampling will have to have another blood test for the neutralizing antibody titer.

Checklist:

1. Microchip Implanting
2. Rabies Immunization (Dogs and Cats)
3. Serological test for rabies neutralizing antibody (Dogs and Cats)
4. Waiting period before export after confirmation of antibody presence dogs and Cats)
5. Advance Notification
6. Approval of Import inspection of animals
7. Clinical Inspection before departure
8. Obtaining a Health Certification form the responsible exporting country government agency

Blood testing laboratories designated by Japan Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for the U.S.

Name and address	Tel/Fax Web site/E-mail	EU recognition Date	MAFF Designated date
<p>Rabies Laboratory Kansas State University</p> <p>1800 Denison Avenue, Mosier Hall Manhattan, Kansas 66506-5601</p> <p>NOTE: Only FAVN test is approved</p>	<p>Tel: 785 532 4483/4455</p> <p>Fax: 785 532 4522/4474</p> <p>Web site: www.vet.ksu.edu/depts/rabies/avn.htm</p> <p>E-mail: rabies@vet.ksu.edu</p>	<p>30 Jan 2002</p>	<p>28 Dec 2004</p>
<p>DOD Veterinary Food Analysis and Diagnostic Laboratory</p> <p>2472 Schofield Road Ft Sam Houston, TX, 78234-6232</p> <p>NOTE: This laboratory accepts blood samples taken only from pets belonging to U.S. government employees and military service members being assigned overseas on official orders:</p>	<p>Tel: 210 295 4605/4010/4387</p> <p>Fax: 210 270 2559</p> <p>Web site: NSF">www.vet.amedd.army.mil/VETLAB>NSF</p> <p>E-mail: Edwin_Cooper@in.amedd.army.mil</p>	<p>20 Jan 2002</p>	<p>28 Dec 2004</p>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Advance notification

Q. Do certain documents have to be submitted for advance notification purposes? Where should the notification be submitted?

A. Either download the '[Notification for importation of animals](#)' form from the Animal Quarantine Service website, or obtain one from your nearest [Animal](#)

[Quarantine Station](#). Once you have completed all the necessary sections of the form, you should mail, fax or hand deliver it to the Animal Quarantine Station which has jurisdiction over the intended air/sea port of arrival.

Q. There have been changes to my import plans since I submitted the notification. What should I do?

A. Either download the '[Notification of changes](#)' form from the Animal Quarantine Service website, or obtain one from your nearest [Animal Quarantine Station](#). Once you have completed all the necessary sections of the form, you should mail, fax or hand deliver it to the Animal Quarantine Station which has jurisdiction over the intended air/sea port of arrival.

Q. At the last minute, I have just found out that I have to bring dogs (cats) into the country but I have not submitted any advance notification. Is it still possible to bring them in?

A. Advance notification is required at least 40 days in advance of the intended date of import, so please reconsider any changes to the date of import. If you are not able to change your plan, please contact the [Animal Quarantine Station](#) which has jurisdiction over the intended air/sea port of arrival immediately. In only case that the Animal Quarantine Service considers any change to be impossible and import quarantine to be conducted, advance notification may be accepted later than 40 days prior to the intended date of import. However, if the animal needs to be held for more than 12 hours and there is no room available in the facilities, you are be required to change the place and/or date of import.

2. Individual identification by microchip

Q. What is a microchip? Will it affect the health of the dogs (cats)?

A. A microchip is a small device (11mm long x 2mm wide) for identification and is inserted into the animal's hypodermis. These microchips are used by countries across the world including Japan, and they do not affect the health of dogs (cats).

Q. Where can microchip can be fitted for dog(cat)?

A. Microchips can be fitted at veterinary clinics, so please contact your nearest one for advice, or contact the Japan Veterinary Medical Association (Tel 81 (0)3 3475 1601, Fax 81 (0)3 3475 1604).

Q. The animals already have microchips fitted but I am not sure of their specifications or numbers. Is there any way I can find out?

A. Please first inquire with the vet who fitted the microchip. Alternatively, you might check with another veterinary clinic which has microchip readers. The fitting of a

microchip is a prerequisite for bringing dogs (cats) into Japan, so please replace the microchip if it cannot be read by any method.

Q. What will happen if the animals arrive in Japan without microchips fitted?

A. If animals do not have a microchip, they will be treated as animals for which no individual identification measures have been taken, and will therefore be held for up to 180 days on arrival in Japan. However please note that in the case of dogs, the dogs will be considered not to have the proper certificate, they will be returned. In cases where animals do not have microchips fitted but can be identified by a tattoo, please consult [the Animal Quarantine Station](#).

Q. The animals have microchips fitted but they are not of the ISO standards. What happens if the microchips cannot be read on arrival?

A. If the microchip number is unreadable at import inspection takes place, the animal will be treated as one for which no individual identification measures have been taken. For this reason, please either contact the [Animal Quarantine Station](#) at the intended air/sea port of arrival, or bring your own microchip reader. Before traveling, you should check that the microchip reader you intend to bring can actually read the microchip.

3. Rabies vaccination

Q. The animals have been immunized against rabies with live vaccines. Will this be accepted?

A. Under the new system, only inactivated vaccines are acceptable. Live vaccines (including genetically modified vaccines) are not accepted.

Q. What is the 'valid period' for rabies vaccinations?

A. The 'valid period' refers to the period for which a vaccine inoculation continues to be effective. There are many types of rabies vaccine, which have different valid periods. Please note that the valid period, may affect preparations in the country of export. Please be sure to check in advance.

Q. Please explain why it is necessary for the animals to be immunized against rabies two or more times.

A. In some cases, a single rabies vaccination does not result in sufficient immunity (antibody levels). It is therefore necessary for animals to be vaccinated two or more times in order to ensure sufficient immunity.

Q. The animals have received rabies vaccinations but have not been fitted with a microchip. Will this be acceptable?

A. Any immunization against rabies carried out prior to the insertion of the microchip will not be accepted. Please be sure to have the animals vaccinated twice and tested for antibody levels only after the microchip is inserted.

4. Immunization against diseases other than rabies

Q. Are vaccinations and certificates of immunization against any diseases other than rabies required?

A. An animal will not be denied importation or given a longer quarantine period on the grounds that it has not been immunized against a disease other than rabies. However, the animal may become susceptible to illness (especially infectious diseases), as a result of suffering stress due to air transportation or a change in environment, or when it is held for an extended period of time. For this reason, it is recommended that you consider immunization against diseases other than rabies and administration of certain drugs prior to departure, following consultation with your vet. (In the case of dogs, the recommended immunizations include: a trivalent of distemper, infectious hepatitis and parvovirus infection; parainfluenza; leptospirosis; coronavirus infection etc. In the case of cats they include a trivalent of feline rhinotracheitis, feline calicivirus and feline panleukopenia etc.)

5. Measurement of antibody levels and waiting period

Q. Please explain the rationale behind the measurement of antibody levels and the 180-day wait.

A. Antibody levels are measured in order to confirm whether or not the animal has developed immunity to rabies. The reason for the wait is to make sure that the animal has not contracted rabies prior to developing immunity to it as a result of immunization. 180 days corresponds to the incubation period for the disease.

Q. What laboratories testing body will undertake the measurement of rabies antibody levels? Who bears the cost of this inspection?

A. Please contact your nearest [Animal Quarantine Station](#), or look at the Animal Quarantine Service website to find what laboratories will carry out the measurement of antibody levels. Laboratories are added to the list on the website once they get designated. Please note that the owner of the animal is responsible for bearing the cost of the test.

Q. What should I do if the animal has been vaccinated but the antibody levels do not meet the required standard?

A. You should consult a vet to find out whether to wait a while before having the animal tested again, or to have the animal vaccinated again. Please note that the wait begins as the day when blood sample is taken for the test which reveals antibody levels clear the standard.

6. Export Certificate

Q. When should I get the Country of Export Certificate issued by the responsible government agency of the country of export? Does this certificate have a validity?

A. There is no set validity period for Country of Export Certificates. However, with regard to health certificates, please ensure that the animal undergoes a check to confirm that it does not have or is not suspected of having rabies (in the case of dogs, for rabies and leptospirosis) immediately prior to departure (wherever possible, no earlier than two days before departure), before obtaining the certification.

Q. Where can I find out which government agency can issue of Export Certificate?

A. Please check with the animal quarantine authority of the country of export.

7. Quarantine period and inspection

Q. What do I have to do to make a quarantine within 12 hours when importing animals from [designated regions \(rabies-free countries/regions\)](#)?

A. When the following can be confirmed from the certificate issued by the responsible government agency of the country of export, the quarantine period upon arrival in Japan will be within 12 hours. Please note that notification to the [Animal Quarantine Station](#) which has jurisdiction over the intended air/seaport of arrival is required no less than 40 days in advance of arrival.

1. That the animal is identified by microchip
2. That the animal has been kept only in a designated region for the past 180 days, since birth, or since arriving directly from Japan.
3. That there have been no outbreaks of rabies in the designated region in the past two years
4. That the animal did not have or was not suspected of having rabies (in the case of dogs, rabies and leptospirosis) at the inspection carried out prior to departure.

NOTE: Only Hawaii and Guam are designated regions (rabies-free countries/regions) for the U.S.

Q. What happens to the quarantine period if the animal has not completed its 180-day wait when it arrives in Japan?

A. In case that the animal meets all other conditions except the waiting time, the number of days remaining in the 180-day wait become quarantine period on arrival in

Japan. Please note that the period does not include the day on which the application for quarantine was submitted, or the day on which the Import Quarantine Certificate was issued.

Q. Is it possible to see dogs (cats) during quarantine?

A. Yes, it is possible to see dogs (cats) during the quarantine. Please contact the [Animal Quarantine Station](#) for details.

Q. What does the quarantine detention involve? Under what circumstances is such detention necessary?

A. Quarantine detention is carried out in case that the animal does not fulfill the conditions for a quarantine within 12 hours. In such case the animal is held in the quarantine facilities of the Animal Quarantine Station for a certain period of time, and inspected to ascertain whether or not it has symptoms of rabies (in the case of dogs, rabies and leptospirosis). Clinical check for the symptoms is the only way of verifying rabies in a living animal. In cases where symptoms of leptospirosis are shown, the animal may be subject to a laboratory test.

Q. Please advise of any precautions that should be taken when undergoing quarantine.

A. Animals can become subject to considerable stress when kept in an unfamiliar place for an extended period of time, and are susceptible to illnesses (especially contagious diseases) so please pay careful attention to animal health prior to departure. Even if an animal becomes sick during the quarantine period, it cannot be released from the quarantine facility. Dogs (cats) that are old, in poor health, pregnant, lactating, have a history of illnesses, on medication or injured are not suited to transportation or the import quarantine that follows. In case that it is absolutely necessary to bring such an animal into Japan, please consult your regular vet well in advance, to determine whether or not the animal will be able to cope with the transportation and import quarantine.

Even for healthy dogs (cats), it is recommended that you consider immunization against diseases other than rabies and administration of certain drugs prior to departure, after consulting your vet about vaccinations and getting rid of parasites. (In the case of dogs, the recommended immunizations include: a trivalent of distemper, infectious hepatitis and parvovirus infection; parainfluenza; leptospirosis; coronavirus infection etc. In the case of cats they include a trivalent of feline viral rhinotracheitis, feline calicivirus and feline panleukopenia etc.)

8. Import quarantine in your own home

Q. I would like to arrange for the import quarantine to take place at home as the animal has disease histories or is old. Is this possible?

A. Import quarantine cannot take place in your own home even when animals have disease histories or are old. Please make all necessary preparations in the country of export to ensure that the quarantine period is within 12 hours. (Quarantine Period: SOFA status personnel page 22)

9. Quarantine for helper dogs (rescue dogs, guide dogs etc.)

Q. Are helper dogs (rescue dogs, guide dogs etc.) also subject to import quarantine?

A. Helper dogs (rescue dogs, guide dogs etc.) are subject to the same import conditions as all other dogs. Please make all necessary preparations in the country of export to ensure that the quarantine period is within 12 hours. Please note that as these dogs are used to assist the daily lives of disabled people, or as rescue dogs, they may be permitted to go outside the quarantine facility etc. once they meet certain requirements, even when their quarantine period is not within 12 hours. However, there are various constraints in such cases, so you are strongly advised to make all necessary preparations in the country of export to ensure that the quarantine period is less than 12 hours. Please contact the [Animal Quarantine Station](#) for further details.

10. Transportation of dogs (cats)

Q. Please advise of any precautions that should be taken when taking a dog (cat) on an airplane.

A. Animals can become subject to considerable stress when kept in an unfamiliar place for an extended period of time, so please ensure that the animal is in good condition prior to departure. Dogs (cats) that are old, in poor health, pregnant, lactating, have a history of illnesses, are on medication or are injured are not suited to transportation or the import quarantine that follows. In case that it is unavoidable to bring such an animal into Japan, please consult your vet and airline well in advance, to determine whether or not the animal will be able to cope with transportation and import quarantine. Please make sure that the cages used for transporting dogs (cats) are large enough for them to stand, sit, sleep and turn freely, and have a vent which allows sufficient ventilation in order to transport them safely and avoid injury. Cages should be constructed in such a way that animals cannot poke their snouts or limbs out of the vent or mesh, and should have anti-escape features.

Q. How do I go about arranging to take the animal on an airplane? How much will it cost?

A. Please contact your airline about this.

Q. Are quarantine procedures affected by the mode of transport used to bring the animals in?

A. Quarantine procedures are not affected in any way by the method of transport (whether it be cargo or hand luggage), or the mode of transport (whether it be airplane or ship).

Q. Will there be any quarantine problems if there is transship on the way to Japan (i.e. a non-direct flight)?

A. When a simple transship is involved (where the animal does not enter the country at the airport of the connecting flight), as long as the animal has a certificate issued by the responsible government agency of the country of export, there will be no problems. However, if the person traveling with the animals enters the country of connecting flight with the dog (cat), a certificate from the responsible government agency of that country then becomes necessary. In certain cases, transship certification is required from the transit country. Please consult the [Animal Quarantine Service](#) for further details.

Q. The animal needs to be transferred onto a domestic flight within Japan. Where will import quarantine take place?

A. In principle, animals undergo import quarantine at the Animal Quarantine Station which has jurisdiction over the airport at which they arrive in Japan on an international flight.

11. Quarantine costs

Q. How much does import quarantine cost?

A. Import inspection by animal quarantine officers is free of charge. However, the importer is responsible for bearing the cost of transportation to the quarantine facility, cares during the quarantine period, vet visits etc.

12. Time needed for procedures

Q. I have heard that if preparations have been successfully made in the country of export, the quarantine period will be within 12 hours, but how long is actually required for the procedures?

A. Upon arrival, the certificate issued by the responsible government agency of the country of export and a dog or cat are checked. In case that the quarantine period is within 12 hours, the inspection usually take less than one hour, it can take more depending on the situation.

In order to speed the check on the content of the certificate, you are strongly encouraged to obtain a certificate based on the form recommended by the Animal Quarantine Service.

13. Care of the animals during the quarantine period

Q. Who feeds take care of the animals during the quarantine? Is it possible to have a third party to take care of animals being held?

A. The importer is responsible for taking care of animals during the quarantine. However, if this is difficult, you can have a caretaker to do it for you. There are caretaker agents based at the quarantine facilities at Narita, Kansai Airport, Nagoya and Yokohama, so it is also possible to contract feeding and care arrangements to them. For further details, please ask the Animal Quarantine Station when submitting the advance notification.

Commercial Transportation

It is recommended to contact your airline in advance to get the most current information. Each airline determines their specific pet policies. The following is a list of major airlines and their phone numbers with embargo information.

United Airlines - Temperature requirements are not less than 10 degrees Fahrenheit or more than 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Unless you have PCS orders there is a Pet Embargo from 1 May- 30 Sept.

Northwest - Not less than 10 Degrees Fahrenheit or more than 85 Degrees Fahrenheit.

American Airlines - Pet Embargo is from 15 May through 15 Sept and there is no exceptions to people that are on PCS orders.

Continental - No pets will be transported in or out of Japan.

Delta - Pet Embargo is from 15 May through 15 Sept unless on PCS orders. Temperature not to exceed 85 degrees.

**To view a complete list of airlines and comprehensive animal transportation information, view these websites.

http://www.pettravel.com/airline_rules.cfm

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/pubs/pettravel.html>

A complete list of airline contact numbers and links to pet policies can be found at:

http://www.pettravel.com/links_airport_contactinfo.cfm

American Airlines	1-800-227-4622	Japan: 0120-00-0860
Continental Airlines	1-800-525-0280	Japan: 0120-24-2414
Japan Airlines	1-800-525-3663	
United Airlines	1-800-241-6522	Japan: 0120-11-4466
Northwest Airlines	1-800-225-2525	Japan: 0120-12-0747

Delta Airlines

1-800-221-1212

Japan: 0120-33-3742

NOTE: The following breeds cannot be transported in temperatures above 70 degrees on several airlines. Use the links provided above for airline specific restrictions.

Dogs: American Staffordshire Terrier, American Pitt Bull Terrier, Bull Mastiff, French Bulldog, Brussels Griffon, Bull Terrier, Dutch Pug, English Bulldog, English Toy Spaniel, Boston Terrier, Chow Chow, Japanese Spaniel Japanese Boxer, Japanese Pug, Pekinese, Pug, Shit Tzu, Staffordshire Bull Terrier

Cats: Himalayans, Persians, Burmese

Japan's official Ports of Entry include:

Seaports: Nagoya, Keihin, Osaka, Kobe, Kanmon and Naha.

Airports: New Tokyo (Narita), Haneda, Nagoya, Osaka, Fukuoka, Kagoshima, and Naha.

Forms: (At the end of booklet)

1. Notification for import of dogs
2. Notification for import of animals (cats, raccoons, foxes and skunks)
3. Application for import inspection of dogs
4. Application for import inspection of animals (cats, raccoons, foxes and skunks)
5. Certificate for dogs, cats, fox, raccoon or skunk to be imported into Japan (Form A)
6. Veterinary Certification (Form C)

Quarantine Period: SOFA status personnel

The quarantine period is primarily determined by the date when the blood for the FAVN test was collected. This is only valid if the microchip was received prior to the 2 rabies vaccinations and the rabies immunizations were received prior to the blood being drawn for the FAVN test. The FAVN test result level must be ≥ 0.5 IU/ml.

Equation used:

(180 days) minus (# days since blood drawn for an acceptable FAVN test at the date of arrival) = # of quarantine days assigned.

The sooner that the pet meets the microchip, vaccination, and FAVN test standards, the shorter the quarantine period will be (up to 180 days).

Those pets that arrive with a FAVN test \geq 180 days and <2 years will be allowed to be released directly into the custody of the owners without a quarantine time period assessed.

Quarantine length is also assessed by the sequential order and completion of all previous steps, the accuracy and the completion of all paperwork, pet identification and documentation, including Health Certificates, Rabies Certificates, USDA certification (if required), and Advance Notification Approval.

Any fault found in any of these areas will result in an automatic 180 day quarantine period. Military Veterinarians are able to reassess and correct quarantine periods that are associated with some paperwork mistakes.

a. Home Quarantine: SOFA status personnel will be allowed to quarantine their animals in on-base housing. Those pets that are assessed quarantine time can complete it in the owner's home on base.

b. Kennel Quarantine: Those pets that do not meet the entry requirements or SOFA personnel that are required to live in off-base housing must quarantine their animal(s) at the owners' expense in a quarantine facility. Military quarantine facilities are available but limited in boarding space. Please secure kenneling reservations ahead of time. If space is not available, the quarantine period will need to be completed at a designated Japanese Animal Quarantine Station.

See website:

(<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/index.html>)

c. SPECIAL NOTE: The practice of allowing pets to remain in the custody of their owners during the assigned "home quarantine" period is a privilege and is not obligatory upon Japanese authorities. Therefore, it is imperative that U.S. Forces pet owners cooperate and comply fully with Japanese Quarantine Laws and military regulations pertaining to the requirements for examining or otherwise processing animals for entry into or exit from Japan. Failure to present the animal to a VTF for the final physical examination is a serious violation of the Japanese law and may result in a fine or other punishment. Failure to comply with the requirements for final physical examination will result in a report of the incident being forwarded to the individual's command.

All forms and information may be found at the Japan District Veterinary Command webpage:

(<http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/index.htm>).

All contact information to include phone, email, and FAX information is also found at the JDVC website. A pet process checklist is also available to assist clients and

veterinarians in completing all requirements in a timely manner. Any other questions may be forwarded to the respective Branch Chief or to Commander, JDVC.

Quarantine Facilities:

The pet owner is responsible for all expenses associated with all quarantine procedures, to include the transportation procurement actions to and from any quarantine inspection facilities of the Japanese Animal Quarantine Service or of the U.S. Armed Forces.

CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS FOR MILITARY QUARANTINE FACILITIES

AREA	RESPONSIBLE QUARANTINE FACILITY	TEL. NO. (DSN)
Atsugi	Kamiseya Housing Area (Boarding)	265-8389
Camp Zama	Camp Zama (Boarding Kennel)	263-5915
Iwakuni	Iwakuni MCAS (VTF)	253-3588
Misawa	Misawa AFB (PAWS)	222-7002
Misawa	Dr. Yoshida	Commercial 0176-57-3423
Okinawa	Kadena AB (Karing Kennel)	Commercial 011-81-98-959-4062
Sasebo	Sasebo NB (Boarding Kennel)	252-2905
Yokosuka	Yokosuka NB (Boarding Kennel)	243-4530
Yokota	Yokota AFB (Boarding Kennel)	225-8906

Pet quarantine reimbursement

a. Service members:

i) Mandatory pet quarantine fees incurred by U.S. service members in connection with the mandatory quarantine of a household pet are reimbursable not to exceed \$550 per PCS move for pets in, or entering into, quarantine on and after 28 DEC 2001. (Ref. JFTR, par. U5805.)

ii) Transportation cost, medical care, grooming, and similar fees for services that are part of routine pet care associated with a PCS are not reimbursable. Similarly, boarding cost incurred after the final release dates from quarantine are not reimbursable. For example, if on the day the attending veterinarian certifies the pet has completed the quarantine period and the service member cannot take possession of the pet for any reason (i.e., the service

member is TDY or pets are not allowed in billeting), the reimbursable amount is set on that date. All subsequent boarding cost(s) are not reimbursable.

iii) Documents recommended to submit to finance include:

1. Boarding receipt for mandatory quarantine dates
2. MDJ Form 270 with entry date and final release date from quarantine

b. DOD civilian employees

Pet quarantine fees and transportation charges incurred in connection with a PCS are included in the Miscellaneous Expense Allowance (MEA) applicable fixed amount authorized in JTR, par. C9004-A. If MEA expenses are itemized, reimbursement for those expenses, including pet quarantine fees and transportation charges, is allowed up to the applicable maximum amount authorized in JTR, par. C9004-B.

c. DA civilian employees and contractors

Congress limits this benefit to "members of the uniformed services." Unfortunately, costs incurred by Department of the Army civilian employees and contractors are not reimbursable.

Upon arrival at sponsor's assigned duty station:

a. Pet owners must contact the US Army Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) located at the installation (see below) within 72 hours of arrival. The final examination must be conducted within 72 hours from the end of the quarantine period.

b. The pet owner is responsible for transporting the animal to and from the VTF and for any expenses incurred.

Location of U.S. Forces Veterinary Treatment Facilities, (VTF)

AREA	RESPONSIBLE VETERINARY TREATMENT FACILITY (VTF)	DSN TEL. NO.
Atsugi & Camp Zama	Zama VTF	263-3875
Iwakuni	Iwakuni VTF	253-4622
Misawa	Misawa VTF	226-4502
Okinawa	Kadena VTF	634-2140
Sasebo	Sasebo VTF	252-3449
Yokosuka	Yokosuka VTF	242-6820
Yokota	Yokota VTF	225-2143

Additional information

OVERVIEW - The Japan District Veterinary Command provides medical care for pets of authorized personnel throughout Japan. The primary missions of the respective Veterinary Units in Japan are food safety and quality assurance, public health concerns, veterinary care for military working dogs and privately owned pets.

AUTHORIZATION FOR SERVICES - Veterinary services are authorized for animals owned by persons with DOD medical care privileges. A valid SOFA-status identification card is required before services are rendered. Regulations also mandate that all pets are currently microchipped and vaccinated annually against rabies before services are rendered. This policy will be enforced.

DISCLAIMER - The Japan District Veterinary Command is authorized to provide care to your privately owned pet(s) as time, space, and personnel resources permit. Care for privately owned animals is just one of many missions we perform; therefore, we cannot guarantee that veterinary services will always be available. You must be prepared to seek veterinary care from local civilian veterinarians if necessary. You may obtain a written list of local veterinary clinics from the VTF. We recommend you obtain this list and become familiar with clinics in your area before the need arises.

For more information, please visit our web site:
(<http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/>)