

Overseas Market Access Requirements Notification - Animal Products Act 1999

Regulation & Assurance Branch, Animal & Animal Products Directorate, Ministry for Primary Industries

Ref: AE-AU-09L

Date: 15 June 2015

DOMANIEC.AU 1 JULY 2015 – CATS AND DOGS TO AUSTRALIA

1. Statutory authority

Pursuant to section 60, section 60A and section 167 of the Animal Products Act 1999 I notify the following:

- (i) the issue under section 60 of the overseas market access requirements for cats and dogs to Australia DOMANIEC.AU dated 1 July 2015;
- (ii) the revocation and replacement of the overseas market access requirements for cats and dogs to Australia DOMANIEC.AU dated 11 March 2013.

This notice takes effect from 1 July 2015.

Dated at Wellington this 24th day of June 2015.

Signed: Grant Clarke
Acting Manager, Import and Export Animals
Animal & Animal Products Directorate
Regulation & Assurance Branch
Ministry for Primary Industries
(pursuant to delegated authority)

2. Australia requirements

Cats and dogs exported from New Zealand to Australia must comply with the import requirements of Australia listed in this notice as follows:

2.1 Exporter's responsibilities:

- 2.1.1 The animal for export has to be microchipped.

- 2.1.2 The animal for export has resided in Australia and/or New Zealand for the ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled date of export or since birth, and is not under any quarantine restriction at the time of export.
- 2.1.3 The animal for export will be least eight (8) weeks old at the time of export.
- 2.1.4 In the case of a dog, the dog is not one of the following breeds: Pit Bull Terrier type or American Pit Bull, Japanese Tosa, Fila Brasileiro, Dogo Argentino, Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario.
- 2.1.5 The animal is not derived from a domestic/non-domestic hybrid. If the animal is a Bengal cat (*Felis catus x Prionailurus bengalensis*), it is proven to be five generations removed from the Asian Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*).
- 2.1.6 If travelling by air, the animal will be transported in accordance with the container requirements specified in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations.
- 2.1.7 In the case of a female cat or female dog, the animal will not be more than forty (40) days pregnant, nor suckling young at the time of export.
- 2.1.8 In the case of a dog it must be noted on the export certificate whether the dog has been continuously resident in New Zealand since birth or the dog has been continuously resident in New Zealand since imported from Australia or the dog has been continuously resident in New Zealand since import from a country other than Australia/ the residency history is unknown (and has been resident in New Zealand for at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the test for *Ehrlichia* and *Leishmania* as per clause 2.2.4 below).
- 2.1.9 In the case of a dog it must be noted on the export certificate if the dog has been resident in mainland Africa (if known).

The above information must be declared and signed by the owner on the “exporter’s declaration” part of the export certificate. If the owner cannot present the animal for certification (i.e. if the “exporter declaration’s” is to be signed by an exporter or a representative) then an “Owner Statutory Declaration” signed by the owner in the presence of a Justice of the Peace or other person authorised to take a statutory declaration, must be presented to the certifying veterinarian.

2.2 Veterinary certification:

A registered veterinarian approved by the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries to certify live cats and dogs to Australia must complete and sign the export certificate, after due enquiry with respect to the animal described, that:

2.2.1 He/she has no reason to doubt the “exporter’s declaration” part of the export certificate.

2.2.2 New Zealand is free from rabies.

2.2.3 For dogs only, canine brucellosis (*Brucella canis*), leptospirosis (*Leptospira canicola*)

and indigenous cases of, and established populations of competent vectors for, canine ehrlichiosis (*Ehrlichia canis*), and leishmaniasis have not been confirmed in New Zealand during the twelve (12) months prior to export.

2.2.4 In the case of a dog:

EITHER

2.2.4.1 Noted that he/she is satisfied by the “exporter’s declaration” that the dog has been continuously resident in New Zealand since birth or since it was imported from Australia;

OR

2.2.4.2 the dog was subjected to an indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT) for *Ehrlichia canis* with negative test results (at 1:40) on a blood sample collected after it has resided in New Zealand for at least twenty-one (21) days. Date of sample collection to be recorded,

AND

2.2.4.3 the dog was tested for *Leishmania infantum* by an indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT) or an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), with negative test results on a blood sample collected after it has resided in New Zealand for at least twenty-one (21) days. Date of sample collection, and test used to be recorded.

2.2.5 In the case of a dog that has resided in mainland Africa, the dog has been treated for *Babesia canis* with imidocarb dipropionate:

EITHER

2.2.5.1 one treatment at 7.5 mg/kg bodyweight

OR

2.2.5.2 two treatments at 6 mg/kg bodyweight with an interval of two weeks.

2.2.6 The animal has been treated for external and internal parasites within five (5) days of the scheduled time of shipment.

2.2.7 He/she has examined the animal for export and scanned and confirmed the microchip within five (5) days of the scheduled time of shipment and have found it to be fit to travel.

2.3 Any additional health/treatment information must be attached to the export certificate.

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this document:

Any term or expression that is defined in the Animal Products Act 1999 and used, but not defined in this document, has the same meaning as in this Act.

Explanatory note

This Export requirement is based on the export certificate for cats and dogs to Australia, dated 1 July 2015 which is based on the import requirements provided by the Department of Agriculture, Australia.

Additional Notes contained within the export certificate

1. Ensure ALL parts of the certificate are filled out in accordance with the MPI Export Programme for Cats and Dogs to Australia. Where possible have the certificate peer reviewed for accuracy by a colleague prior to issuing to the Exporter.
2. The Approved Veterinary Practice must send copies of export certificates within five working days to Export Administration,ASUREQuality Limited, Private Bag 3080, Hamilton. (*PLEASE NOTE: copies of the export certificate are NOT to be sent to the Ministry for Primary Industries*)
3. This certificate replaces that dated 1 March 2013.
4. A Permit to Import is not required from the Department of Agriculture, Australia.
5. The Exporter must give the Department of Agriculture (formerly DAFF/ AQIS) at least three days notice of the animal's arrival in Australia. This should be done by faxing the following information to the Department's Regional Office located in the state in which your pet will first arrive in Australia:
 - date and estimated time of arrival;
 - flight number;
 - air waybill number;
 - a short description of the cat/dog including microchip number;
 - a contact phone number in New Zealand or Australia;
 - the address at which the animal is to reside in Australia;
 - whether the dog is a disability assistance dog.
6. In accordance with the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), animals derived from a domestic/non-domestic hybrid are generally not eligible for import to Australia. The only exception to this is the Bengal cat (*Felis catus x Prionailurus bengalensis*) which may continue to be imported provided it is five generations removed from the Asian Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) (*Clause 4 of the Exporter declaration*). Contact the Wildlife Trade Regulation Section, Department of the Environment on ph: 0061 2 6274 1111 or email exotic.species@environment.gov.au for further information.
7. A registered veterinarian approved by the MPI to certify cats and dogs to Australia (Approved Veterinarian) must examine the animal and scan and confirm the microchip number. The MPI Approval Number is the number given to the MPI Approved Veterinary Practice where this veterinarian is approved to do this certification.
8. The exporter declaration must be completed in full at the time of certification and before the animals are examined by the Approved Veterinarian. If the owner is not present at the time of certification (i.e. the exporter declaration is signed by an exporter or representative) an owner's statutory declaration signed in the presence of a Justice of the Peace or other person authorised to take a statutory declaration, must be presented to the certifying veterinarian and kept on file.
9. The Approved Veterinarian should only sign the Export Certificate once the whole certificate, including the exporter declaration, has been completed and he/she has examined the animal.
10. For dogs that have previously been imported from Australia: the export certificate (or a biosecurity clearance record) used for this importation must be attached to this certificate. Exporters can acquire biosecurity clearance records from the MPI risk screening group on 09 909 3030 (option 2, option 1), or email riskscreening@mpi.govt.nz.

11. For dogs that require *Ehrlichia canis* and *Leishmania infantum* testing, the tests must be done only after the dogs have been resident in New Zealand for a minimum of 21 days. This testing remains valid only if the dog is continuously resident in New Zealand from the sampling date until export to Australia.
12. Samples for *Ehrlichia canis* and *Leishmania infantum* testing are to be sent to the Animal Health Laboratory (IDC), Wallaceville. For enquiries, please contact the laboratory on 04 894 5600. Copies of the test results must be attached to this certificate.
13. For dogs that have previously resided in mainland Africa: The dog was treated as in clause 5 of the veterinary certification, while the dog was resident in New Zealand or for the purpose of import into New Zealand/Australia. Where the dog was not treated in New Zealand, a copy of the certification of the treatment as in clause 5 must be endorsed (signed and dated) by a MPI Approved Veterinarian and attached to this certificate.
14. Parasite treatment must be effective against internal (effective against nematodes and cestodes) and external parasites (that kills ticks and fleas on contact) using drugs registered for that purpose in New Zealand. As a general rule, oral external parasite treatments do not meet Australian import conditions and should therefore not be relied upon for exporting dogs and cats to Australia. The department's website includes a table of acceptable parasite treatments for use in preparing dogs and cats for export to Australia-<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/cats-dogs/step-by-step-guides/parasite-treatment>. The list is not exhaustive but where an exporter wishes to use an unlisted product they should contact the department first to check that it will be appropriate.
15. Additional health information should include a letter on a practice letterhead detailing any health conditions of the animal that could affect its clearance in Australia, any laboratory results (for *Ehrlichia canis* and *Leishmania infantum*) and previous export certificates or biosecurity clearance record (*as necessary*).
16. Cats and dogs travelling by air 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, allow the animal to have enough space to turn around normally while standing, to stand and sit erect, and lie in a natural position. For more details regarding IATA regulations contact your airline. The IATA standards have been developed to prevent escape and injury during transportation. Disability assistance dogs may travel with their handler in the cabin.
17. Documentation must be in order and all import requirements must be met. Any animal arriving in Australia having not met their requirements may be ordered into quarantine or re-shipped to New Zealand at the importer's expense. The original export certificate must accompany the animal.
18. For general enquiries regarding this export certificate, please contact AsureQuality on 0508 00 11 22 or email exports@asurequality.com.
19. At each veterinary visit for test, treatment or examination, the dog must be scanned and the microchip number must be correctly recorded on all documentation.
20. Where there is doubt about the breed of a dog, owners should submit photos to the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service for acceptability before export. Australian Customs and Border Protection Service Phone: 0061 2 6275 6666, Email: information@customs.gov.au

**Additional Information on Overseas Market Access Requirements Notification:
DOMANIEC.AU dated 1 July 2015**

1. A list of registered veterinarians approved to export cats and dogs to Australia is available from the MPI website at: <https://mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/resources/registers-and-lists/veterinary-practices-approved-for-certification-of-dogs-and-cats-to-australia/>
2. A list of registered pet exporters can be found on the MPI website at the following link: <http://mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/resources/registers-and-lists/pet-exporters/>
3. Department of Agriculture, State Office contact details

State Office	Phone	Fax
New South Wales	+61 2 8334 7434	+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 9475 2600	+61 8 9475 2666
Northern Territory	+61 8 8920 7001	+61 8 8920 7011

4. Link to the owner statutory declaration form can be accessed from : <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/exporting/animals/pets/>
5. The MPI 'Export Programme for Cats and Dogs to Australia' is the document that outlines the requirements which need to be adhered to by the approved vets in order to comply with the export programme. It can be accessed from the link below: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/exporting/animals/pets/>
6. Information for Assistance Dogs can be found on part 4.8 of the MPI 'Export Programme for Cats and Dogs to Australia'.

Section 61.A of the Animal Products Act 1999 states that 'The Crown is not liable, and nor is the Director-General or any employee of the Ministry liable, for any loss arising through the refusal or failure of the relevant authority of an overseas market to admit export animal material or animal product to that market'.