

IMPORT CONDITIONS FOR CONTROLLED COMMODITIES (Animal Health Ordinance 2012)

Commodity: **Dogs and Cats**

Scientific name: ***Canis familiaris* and *Felis catus***

Country/ies: **Canada, USA, Rabies Free and Rabies Endemic Countries**

Date Revised: **January 1, 2015**

GENERAL INFORMATION ON IMPORTATION

The information contained here covers the Animal Health Services Division (AHSD) import conditions. Importers must satisfy all import conditions that are extant at the time the commodity arrives at the port of entry in the Turks and Caicos Islands. It is the importer's responsibility to verify the accuracy and completeness of all import conditions before they attempt to import controlled commodities.

¹Controlled commodities may only be imported into the Turks and Caicos Islands through a port of entry. No controlled commodity may be imported unless:

1. *an animal import permit has been issued for that importation and*
2. *the controlled commodity meets the animal import conditions of the permit and the controlled commodity is accompanied by any other documentation required by or under the Animal Health Ordinance 2012 or any other written law to accompany imports.*

There are penalties (Animal Health Ordinance 2012, Section 34, subsection 3) for persons who import a controlled commodity in contravention of 1. and 2. above.

Importers must give the AHSD an arrival notification of the intended importation of all imported controlled commodities. If there is on board a vessel or aircraft arriving in the Turks and Caicos Islands any controlled commodity, the captain or owner of the vessel or aircraft on or before coming into a port of entry must declare to the AHSD, the presence of the controlled commodity on board the vessel or aircraft.

Importers must ensure that all controlled commodities, intended for import, meet and comply with all requirements from any other regulatory body that may have responsibility for such import, for example, The Customs Department, Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs and the Department of Environmental Health. Importers should note that this list is may not be exhaustive.

All imported controlled commodities will be subjected to an inspection by an Animal Inspector from the Inspection Unit for Plant and Animal Health at the port of entry.

CONDITIONS OF ADMINISTRATION

A. For persons wishing to import dogs and cats into the Turks and Caicos Islands, they must:

1. Complete all relevant sections of the **application form** and return it to the Department via email, fax or mail:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION
BUTTERFIELD SQUARE, 16 PARADE AVENUE
PROVIDENCIALES, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS
Email: agriculture@gov.tc
Telephone: 1.649.946.5801
Telefax: 1.649.941.7587

2. Be issued with an **import permit** (issued in accordance with Animal Health Ordinance 2012) in respect of the animals to be imported;
3. Comply, in full, with all the **import requirements** for the issuance of an import permit. Failure to do so will result in the animals being refused entry, held in holding and **deported within 48 hours at the owner's expense or be euthanized without recompense.**
4. Give **The Inspection Unit for Plant and Animal Health** at least 48 hours' notice of confirmed arrival date, time, airline/vessel number and the designated port of entry. All relevant documents (the import permit and the originals of Veterinary Health Certificate, Vaccination Certificate, Laboratory Test results, etc.) must accompany all consignments of animals which must be submitted at the port of entry in order to facilitate biosecurity inspection and clearance. **Failure to do so may result in delays in biosecurity clearance being approved.**
5. In the event that during the course of transporting the animal to the Turks and Caicos Islands, it was trans-shipped via another country and remained there for twenty-four (24) hours and over, a veterinary certificate from the Veterinary Authority or from the Quarantine Officer must be obtained stating that the said animals did not leave the quarantine area, noting the period of time in quarantine and the condition of the animal.

B. All import permit (Single entry) fees (\$USD 50.00) for dogs and cats are collected at the port of entry in the Turks and Caicos Islands for those persons who apply outside the jurisdiction. Fees for re-entry (\$USD50.00) and multiple-entry (\$USD 200.00) are paid at the Treasury Department in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

C. It is your responsibility to contact the Animal Health Services Division, Department of Agriculture, to confirm that the import conditions below are current since animal disease status in various countries is dynamic.

SANITARY CERTIFICATION

In order to bring your dogs or cats into the Turks and Caicos Islands, the animal (s) must be accompanied by an ²**International Health Certificate** signed and issued by an ³**Official Veterinarian** of the ⁴**Veterinary Authority** of the country of export stating:

A.

- i. That the animal(s) has/have been permanently identified with a microchip transponder or tattoo. The microchip must be able to be read by a microchip reader. The microchip **MUST** have been placed before rabies vaccination was initiated.
- ii. The information (including dates) of vaccination of the dog(s) against:
 - a. Canine Parvovirus, Distemper, Hepatitis/Adenovirus, Parainfluenza, Leptospirosis in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations;
 - b. In the case of Lyme disease, in countries where it is present (**DOGS ONLY**):
 - I. the animal was vaccinated in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations or
 - II. tested serologically negative not more than 10 days prior to the date of shipment. **The Idexx SNAP® 4Dx Plus® is acceptable for Lyme disease screening.**
- iii. The information (including dates) of vaccination of the cat(s) against:
 - a. Feline Calicivirus, Panleukopaenia, Feline Rhinotracheitis and Feline Leukaemia according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- iv. That the animal(s) was/were treated against internal and external parasites within 14 days of the scheduled date of shipment:
 - a. For ticks a preparation known to have residual action should be used, e.g. products containing fipronil, amitraz, pyrethrins and permethrins. **The following products are not acceptable:** *Shampoos, collars and products used for flea control only (e.g. Program®, Advantage®, Revolution® or Sentinel®).*
 - b. For tapeworms (*Echinococcus multilocularis*) a product containing praziquantel given at a dose rate of 5mg/kg. The date of this treatment must precede the date that the certificate is signed.

Even though there are no import requirements for heartworm disease, the Department urges all owners to place their pets on a suitable preventative before entering the Turks and Caicos Islands.

B. That if the animal (s) is/are being exported from a **RABIES ENDEMIC COUNTRY**, excluding the United States of America and Canada, the following applies:-

- i. the animal (s) was/were:
 - a. vaccinated or revaccinated against rabies, using an inactivated adjuvant vaccine, in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer. The vaccine should have been produced and used in accordance

with the OIE Terrestrial Manual. Primary (*initial*) vaccinations must be given not less than 3 months of age; and

- b. subjected, not less than 30 days after rabies vaccination is completed, to a blood test (Fluorescent Antibody Virus Neutralisation Test) which must have been conducted in a laboratory approved by the Animal Health Service for that purpose with a positive result of at least 0.5IU/ml. The animals will only be eligible to enter the Turks and Caicos Islands not less than 3 months and not more than 12 months from the date the blood sample was drawn to facilitate the testing.

C. That if the animal (s) is/are being exported from the United States of America or Canada, the following applies:-

i. the animal (s) was/were:

- a. vaccinated or revaccinated against rabies, using an inactivated adjuvant vaccine, in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer. The vaccine should have been produced and used in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Manual. Primary (*initial*) vaccinations must be given not less than 3 months of age; and
- b. subjected, not less than 30 days after vaccination is completed, to a blood test (Fluorescent Antibody Virus Neutralisation Test) which must have been conducted in a laboratory approved by the Animal Health Service for that purpose with a positive result of at least 0.5IU/ml. The animal (s) will be eligible for entry into the Turks and Caicos Islands thereafter. **Animals originating from the USA or Canada are only required to have their titres done once in the animal's lifetime providing that:**
 - i. all booster vaccines are given before the expiration date of the previous vaccination (based on the manufacturer's declaration on the duration of immunity) or the rabies titre test must be repeated as at **b** above.

D. Laboratories approved by the Animal Health Service for rabies titre testing can be found at:

<http://www.who-rabies-bulletin.org/travel/laboratories.aspx>

or

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/approval_en.htm

E. That if the animal (s) is/are being exported from a NON- RABIES ENDEMIC COUNTRY:

Antigua, Anguilla, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Fiji, Finland, Iceland, Jamaica, Japan, Montserrat, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Ireland, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Martin (Netherlands Antilles), St. Pierre et Miquelon, St. Vincent, Sweden, Taiwan, The United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA (Hawaii), US Virgin Island.

the following applies:-

- i. the animal (s) has continuously /have continuously been resident or was kept/were kept since birth in one of the countries above for the past six months prior to shipment to the Turks and Caicos Islands;

F. For dogs being exported from countries infested with New World Screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax* and/or Old World Screwworm (*Chrysomya bezziana*) the IHC must be accompanied by **AHSD FORM VHC/1000**

G. All animals qualifying for entry under sections B, C and E must be clinically free of rabies on the day of shipment.

Please note that all vaccinations given above must be done by a licensed veterinarian in the country of export and included with all other relevant information on a **vaccination certificate** (bearing his/her signature, licence number and stamp or seal). The vaccination certificate must be submitted along with the application. The **two most recent rabies vaccination records** are to be included with all applications. **NOTE:** If the primary rabies vaccination is between 6-12 months prior to import only one record is required.

Notwithstanding that an international health certificate in relation to any dog or cat to be imported into the Islands is produced, the Animal Health Service may, in its discretion, and subject to such sanitary conditions of the exporting country at time of application, may impose in writing, additional sanitary conditions for such importation into the Islands.

NON-SANITARY CERTIFICATION

A. SPAY AND NEUTER

All dogs must be spayed or neutered as the case may be in order to be granted an import permit. Persons granted an animal breeder's licences are exempted from this requirement.

B. The following breeds (including crosses) of dog are **PROHIBITED** to be imported into the Turks and Caicos Islands: *Dogo Argentino*; *American Pit Bull Terrier*; *American Staffordshire Terrier*; *American Bull Dog*; *Japanese Tosa*; *Perro de Presa Canario* (Canary dog); and *Fila Brasileiro*.

Please contact the Department if you are attempting to import a dog on the **RESTRICTED LIST**: *Appenzeller*; *Aryan Molossus*; *Bandog*; *Beauceron*; *Belgian Mastiff*; *Bull Mastiff*; *Danish Broholmer*; *Dogue de Bordeaux*; *Great Swiss Mountain Dog*; *Korean Jindo*; *Kuvasz*; *Leonberger*; *Moscow Watchdog*; *Neapolitan Mastiff*; *Perro de Presa Mallorquin*; *Rottweiler*; *Boerboel*; and the *Tibetan Mastiff*.

C. DOCUMENTATION FOR INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CERTIFICATES

- i. If additional sheets of paper or supporting documents are attached to the International Health Certificate concerning an import, those sheets of paper or document shall also be considered as forming part of the original of the International Health Certificate by the application of the signature and stamp of the official veterinarian, on each of the pages;
- ii. The International Health Certificate should be completed, signed and stamped in any colour other than black;
- iii. When the International Health Certificate, including additional sheets referred to in (i), comprises more than one page, each page shall be numbered, (page number) of (total number of pages), at the end of the page and shall bear the certificate reference number that has been designated by the competent authority at the top of the pages; and

- iv. The animals must be accompanied at the point of entry by all relevant documents (import permit, and **originals** of the International Health Certificate, vaccination certificates, Spay/neuter certificates, Laboratory Test results, etc.) in order to facilitate biosecurity clearance.
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DEFINITIONS

- i. ¹Controlled commodity means an animal, animal product or animal-related item.
- ii. ²International Health Certificate means a certificate, issued in conformity with the provisions of the OIE Terrestrial Code describing the animal health and/or public health requirements which are fulfilled by the exported commodities.
- iii. ³Official Veterinarian means a veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Authority of the country to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health and inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 5.1. and 5.2. of the OIE Terrestrial Code.
- iv. ⁴Veterinary Authority means the Governmental Authority of an OIE Member, comprising veterinarians, other professionals and para-professionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the Terrestrial Code in the whole territory.

