



IMPORTATION OF DOGS AND CATS FROM NON-SCHEDULED (RABIES-ENDEMIC) COUNTRIES

Conditions for Importation:

- (1) Animal(s) must be accompanied by a **health certificate** issued by the ***veterinary authority** in the country of origin stating:
 - (a) Proper identification of the animal(s): Animal(s) must be permanently identified with a microchip transponder or tattoo.
 - (b) That the dog(s) and/or cat(s) is/are healthy and free from symptoms of infectious or contagious diseases.
 - (c) Animal(s) is/are treated against internal and external parasites.
 - (d) That the dog(s) has/have been vaccinated against Canine Parvovirus, Distemper, Hepatitis/Adenovirus, Parainfluenza, Leptospirosis and Lyme Disease.
 - (e) That the cat(s) has/have been vaccinated against Feline Calicivirus, Panleukopenia, Feline Rhinotracheitis, and Feline Leukemia.
 - (f) That the area of origin is not currently under Rabies quarantine.
 - (g) **That the dog(s) / cat(s) has/have had at least two (2) rabies inactivated vaccines; the first, not earlier than three (3) months of age and another at least six (6) months later.**
 - (h) **That four (4) months after the first rabies vaccine and at least one (1) month after the second or subsequent booster rabies vaccines, serological test (FAVN) have been carried out to determine the presence of adequate virus-neutralizing antibody titers before departure. Animals will be permitted to enter the Virgin Islands up to twelve (12) months after the last booster shot, subject to positive blood tests (>0.5Iu/ml).**
 - (i) That the dog(s) / cat(s) has/have been in the country of origin/export for at least six (6) months immediately preceding importation to the territory.
- (2) Dog(s) / cat(s) must be found clinically healthy on arrival.
- (3) **All required conditions must be met, and all relevant documents (import permit, veterinary health certificate, vaccination certificate, lab test results, etc.) must be presented at the port of entry to facilitate veterinary clearance and to avoid the otherwise unpleasant, but necessary measures such as animals being kept in a facility, deportation or euthanasia.**
- (4) **The Veterinary Division must be given at least 24 hours notice of confirmed arrival date, time, airline/vessel and the port of entry. This will facilitate unnecessary delays, and avoid detention of animal(s) for veterinary clearance at the port of entry. Therefore, the granting of permits for animals to be presented for inspection to enter the Virgin Islands does not signify automatic entry.**
- (5) Upon submission of the application, the specified fee schedule will be applied.
- (6) Animal(s) must be kept in confinement (carrier) until granted entry into the Territory. Failure to do so can cause entry of animal(s) being denied, or any animal traveling as a service animal must be wearing their service jacket along with proper identification.

***An official health certificate is a document issued and certified by a veterinarian working full time with the government of the country of origin (e.g. USDA, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, DEFRA, etc.). The document may be filled out and signed by a licensed veterinarian, but must also be endorsed by a government veterinarian.**

Please be advised, these requirements are subject to change since animal disease status in various countries is dynamic. Therefore, the granting of permission for animals to enter the Virgin Islands does not signify automatic entry. It is your responsibility to contact the Veterinary Division, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to confirm these conditions are current.

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