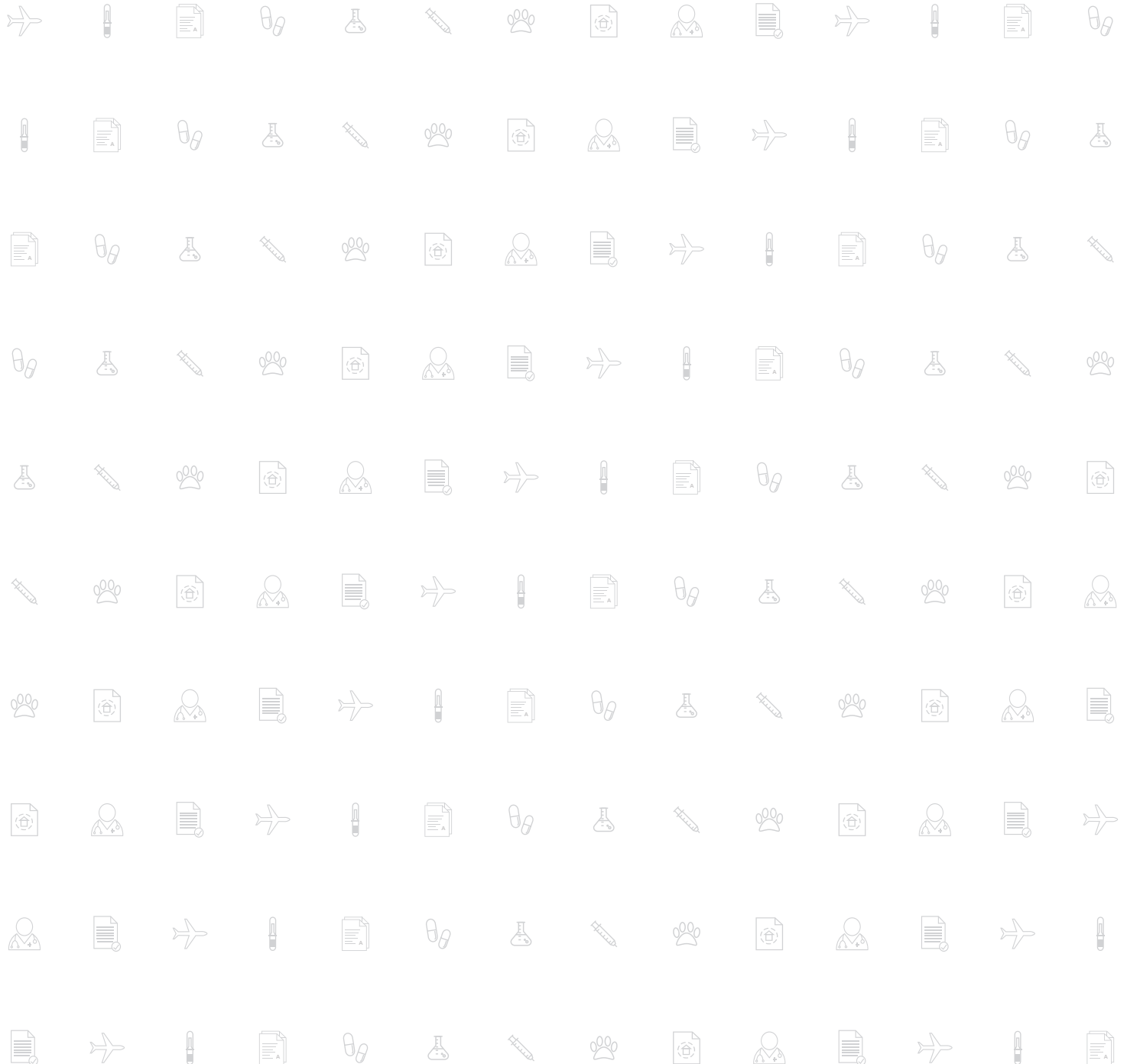




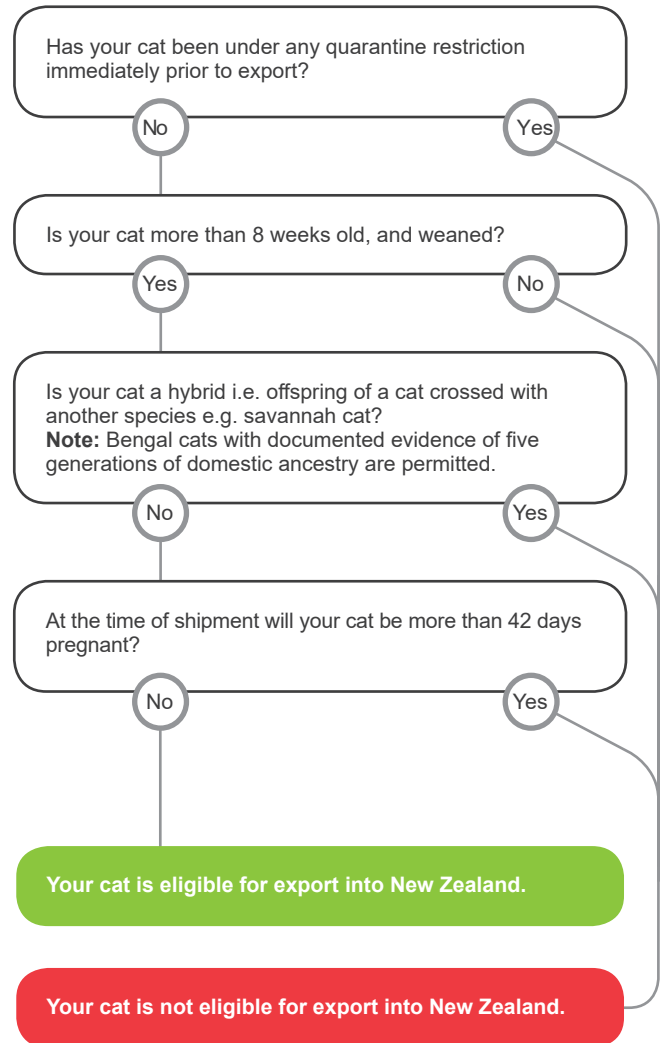
# Bringing your cat to New Zealand

## Cats from Category 1 countries

Support document and checklist



## Eligibility questions



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# About

There are three different categories of country you can import cats and dogs from:

- Category 1: Australia (including Norfolk Island)
- Category 2: Rabies free
- Category 3: Rabies absent or well controlled

This supporting document is to help people bringing their cat to New Zealand from a **Category 1** country. Check the category of the country your cat is coming from in the [Guidance Document: Cats and Dogs](#).

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is the competent authority in New Zealand. We set the rules for bringing in your cat.

The [Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs](#) provides the requirements (must do) for importing your cat, and the accompanying guidance document provides advice on how to meet the requirements.

We recommend you familiarise yourself with the process and the requirements.

# Overview

New Zealand's requirements to import cats are amongst the strictest in the world, reflecting the absence of many pests and diseases. If your cat doesn't meet all requirements your cat might be (at your cost):

- held in quarantine
- required to complete additional testing or treatments
- reshipped back to the country of origin
- put down/euthanised (in the worst-case scenario)

If this is the first time you have arranged a cat to come to New Zealand, you may find it time-consuming and complicated. MPI recommends you use a pet transporter to help arrange treatments, flights, shipping crates, etc. Be aware that some airlines only accept bookings made by a pet transporter. We recommend checking directly with airlines about booking requirements, and any other conditions that may be imposed.

You also need to consider your cat's welfare and whether your cat is fit enough to travel to New Zealand.

## How to use this document

This guide is to help people bringing their cat to New Zealand from a **Category 1** country. The document has been broken down into stages to help you navigate through the process. A checklist is included to help ensure you complete each step at the correct time.

### Eligibility

To be **eligible** to be shipped to New Zealand your cat must:

- be a domestic cat (*Felis catus*).
- be more than 8 weeks of age (and weaned) on the date of travel to New Zealand.
- not have been under any quarantine restriction prior to shipment.

Your cat **cannot** come to New Zealand if it is:

- a hybrid (i.e. offspring of cats crossed with another species e.g. savannah cat), with the exception of Bengal cats. Documentation of five generations of ancestry must be provided.
- more than 42 days pregnant on the date of travel to New Zealand.

### Timeframe

**You need to follow all steps carefully and do them at the correct time to avoid complications, such as having to repeat steps, rebook flights or have your cat not meet the requirements on arrival.**



### Documentation

Your cat's microchip number must be recorded on all documentation.

### Medication

If your cat is on any medication, you will need to include a copy of the veterinarian's prescription with the export documentation

If the medication is travelling with your cat, attach a *Declaration of Medicines* to the export documents.



### Tests and treatments

There are two types of veterinarian involved in this process.

A **registered or licensed veterinarian** who can:

- administer tests and treatments and provide advice
- verify your cat's identity by scanning the microchip prior to each treatment
- fill out *Model Veterinary Certificate A*

An **official government veterinarian** who:

- is trained and authorised by the government
- completes, signs and stamps *Model Veterinary Certificate B*
- signs and stamps all other export documentation

Check the export requirements for the country your cat is travelling from. Some countries have different rules about which veterinarian prepares your cat. Additionally, try to find an experienced veterinarian that has previously prepared cats to move to New Zealand.

## Travel Arrangements

### Travel crate

Your cat will be transported in a crate in the air-conditioned cargo hold of the airplane that is temperature controlled and pressurised just like the cabin. The crate the cat travels in must comply with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) regulations.

Read the [IATA requirements](#) when choosing a crate that best meets your cat's needs.

The crate must:

- be clean, dry and free of pests
- only have inert bedding. Straw or hay bedding is not permitted.
- anything that travels with your cat will be destroyed on arrival in New Zealand (such as bedding, toys or clothing).

Contact the export country's competent authority to discuss how to get the official government seal on the crate.

### Notify Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)

You need to notify MPI at least 5 days before your cat arrives in New Zealand, using the [MPI Veterinary Inspection form](#).

Email notifications to [ozdogsandcats@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:ozdogsandcats@mpi.govt.nz)

If you have any questions and your pet is arriving in Auckland, email: [liveanimalsauckland@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:liveanimalsauckland@mpi.govt.nz)  
or phone: **+64 9 909 2706**

If you have any questions and your pet is arriving in Christchurch, email: [liveanimalgroup@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:liveanimalgroup@mpi.govt.nz)  
or phone: **+64 3 943 1777**

### Travelling with medicines

If your cat is taking any medication, you must send MPI a copy of the prescription before or when your pet arrives in New Zealand. If the veterinary medicine is travelling with your pet, you must complete a [Declaration of Medicines](#). Attach the declaration and a copy of the prescription to the documents. Generally, MPI will give clearance for up to a 3-month supply.

### On the day

On the date of travel, your cat must be in its crate and must travel with the following:

- [import permit](#) (issued by the MPI, and only where applicable)
- the original [Model Veterinary Certificate A](#) signed, endorsed and dated
- the original [Model Veterinary Certificate B](#) signed, endorsed and dated
- if the cat has medication, a copy of the prescription and declaration (if needed)
- any other documents as required by the airline.

### Arrival

On arrival in New Zealand, your cat will be inspected by an Official Veterinarian and allowed to enter New Zealand if all requirements have been met.

Inspection times are as follows:

**Auckland** 0700 to 1900 hours (weekdays only)

**Christchurch** 1300 to 1700 hours (weekdays only)

These hours are Monday to Friday except for public holidays and a period between and around Christmas and New Year.

If your cat is found to have fleas or ticks, your cat will be directed to a quarantine facility for further treatment (at importer's expense). If your cat is found to have fleas or ticks after release into New Zealand or from quarantine, or is unwell, you should take it to a veterinarian. Tell the veterinarian that your cat has recently arrived in New Zealand from Australia.

## Documentation

### Model Veterinary Certificates A and B



Different countries have different rules for which veterinarian completes which certificate, so check the rules for the country your cat will be travelling from. Generally, once your veterinarian has completed the treatments for your cat:

- your veterinarian prepares *Model Veterinary Certificates A and B*.
- the official government veterinarian signs, dates and endorses *Model Veterinary Certificates A and B*.

### Declarations for Model Veterinary Certificates A and B

To get the [Model Veterinary Certificate A](#) and [Model Veterinary Certificate B](#), you must be ready to declare that your cat:

- will be more than 8 weeks of age at the date of shipment.
- will not be more than 42 days pregnant at the date of shipment.
- has not been under any quarantine restriction immediately prior to shipment

For at least **21 days prior** to shipment, your cat:

- was not kept in a place where there were cats or dogs showing clinical signs of infectious respiratory disease.
- showed no clinical signs of infectious respiratory disease.

We recommend that you check with your pet transporter or airline which documents need to travel with your cat on the flight.

## Tests and Treatments

The checklist on page 8 is set out to help you and your veterinarian plan when to treat your cat for export.

You need to know what date your cat is scheduled to fly out of the country to book appointments with your veterinarian on the correct dates.



### Finding the right people to help you

Contact the competent authority in the country your cat is leaving from. This is the official government body in charge of the export of animals. The competent authority will help you locate:

- a veterinarian authorised to do the required treatments to prepare your cat to come to New Zealand
- a veterinarian authorised to complete and sign *Model Veterinary Certificate A*
- an official government veterinarian authorised to endorse *Model Veterinary Certificate B* and other export documentation.

Using a pet transporter makes preparing your cat easier.



### Microchip

Your cat must be implanted with a microchip and the microchip scanned to verify the identity of your cat before any of the treatments required for import into New Zealand.

Microchips that meet International Standards Organisation (ISO) specifications 11784 or Annex A of 11785 are generally used. If the microchip does not meet ISO standard specifications, you will need to check the microchip can be read in New Zealand.

### Keep the documentation for your records.

The microchip number must be recorded on all documents.



### List of treatments

Take your cat to a registered/licensed veterinarian to conduct the following tests and treatments.

#### External parasites

Your cat must be treated twice, with the first treatment given in the 30 days prior to flying and at least two weeks before the second treatment which is given in the two days prior to flying to New Zealand. External parasite treatment must be effective against fleas and ticks.

#### Internal parasites

Your cat must be treated twice with the first treatment given 30 days prior to flying and at least two weeks before the second treatment, which is given in the four days prior to flying. Internal parasite treatment must be effective against nematodes and cestodes.

#### Final veterinary examination

A veterinarian must perform a final pre-export clinical examination in the 2 days prior to arrival. Your cat must be free of evidence of external parasites, and clinical signs of infectious and contagious disease.

## In New Zealand

### Settling in

If your cat is found to be unwell after entry into New Zealand you should take it to a veterinarian. Tell the veterinarian that your cat has recently arrived in New Zealand from Australia.

## What if...

### The flight is delayed?

Contact [animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz).

### My cat is unwell or injured prior to travel?

It is very important that your cat is fit and healthy to travel prior to shipment. Contact animal imports for further information at [animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz).

## Appendix

### Category 1 Model Veterinary Certificate A

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/5788-category-1-model-veterinary-certificate-a-cats-and-dogs-from-australiaincludes-norfolk-island>

### Category 1 Model Veterinary Certificate B

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/5776-category-1-model-veterinary-certificate-b-cats-and-dogs-from-australiaincludes-norfolk-island>

### Declaration of medicines

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/1580-acvm-21-importation-of-veterinary-medicines-for-use-only-on-accompanied-animals>

### Guidance Document: Cats and Dogs

<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/1575-cats-and-dogs-import-health-standard-guidance-document>

### IATA requirements for travel crates

<https://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live-animals/Documents/pet-container-requirements.pdf>

### Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/1574-cats-and-dogs-import-health-standard>

### MPI Veterinary Insepection form

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/4648-application-for-veterinary-inspection-cats-and-dogs-from-australia>



## Glossary

### **Competent authority**

The veterinary or government authority of an exporting country with responsibilities for providing international veterinary certification.

### **IATA**

International air transport association

### **MPI**

Ministry for Primary Industries

### **Official government veterinarian**

A veterinarian authorised in the country of export to sign and endorse veterinary certificates and supporting documentation for export.

### **Registered/licensed veterinarian**

A veterinarian who can do all tests and treatments and provide advice.

# Cat import checklist

Follow the checklist to prepare your cat to come into New Zealand.

The Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) recommends you use a pet transporter to assist with the arrangements of treatments, flights, shipping crates etc. Some airlines only accept bookings made by a pet transporter. Check directly with airlines about booking requirements and any other conditions.

Check the rules for the country your cat is travelling from. Different countries have different rules for what each veterinarian must do. We recommend you try to find a veterinarian who has prepared cats for travel to New Zealand before.

**Keep all documentation as proof that your cat meets all requirements. Your cat's microchip number must be recorded on all documentation.**

**Start here and follow the checklist below.**

## 7–8 weeks before export

Ask your veterinarian to:

- Implant a microchip, or
- Check the presence of a microchip
- Organise a travel crate

Date completed:

Notes

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## In the 30 days before export

Ask your veterinarian to:

- Scan and check the microchip number
- Perform an examination to ensure your pet is free from visible signs of external parasites
- Give the first treatment for external parasites (fleas and ticks)
- Give the first treatment for internal parasites (nematodes and cestodes)

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## In the 2 days before export

Ask your veterinarian to:

- Scan and check the microchip number

Perform an examination to check your pet is free from:

- External parasites
- Clinical signs of infectious disease
- Check your pet is fit and healthy to travel
- Give your pet their second internal and external parasite treatment (fleas, ticks, nematodes and cestodes)
- Get *Model Veterinary Certificate A and B* signed, dated and stamped by an official government veterinarian
- Complete canine influenza declaration (if *Model Veterinary Certificate A* does not include a canine influenza clause this declaration must accompany your cat)
- Get an official seal to put on your pet's crate
- Notify MPI of arrival

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## On the day of travel

- Put the seal on the travel crate

Make sure the following documents travel with your pet:

- Import permit
- Original *Model Veterinary Certificates A and B*
- Declaration of medicines (if required)
- Other documents required by the airline

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