



Dogs and Cats to South Africa (Guidance)

ZAPET9

Effective from 19 April 2024

1 Document History

Version Date	Section Changed	Change(s) Description
19 April 2024	All sections	New Guidance Document for <i>Dogs and Cats to South Africa (OMAR)</i> , dated 19 April 2024.

2 Purpose

- (1) This guidance document has been issued to accompany the corresponding Overseas Market Access Requirements (OMAR). This guidance document should be read in conjunction with that OMAR.

3 Specific guidance for the zoosanitary certificate

- (1) The animal(s) for export are to fully comply with the *Animal Products Notice: Export Requirements for Live Animals Microchipping*.
- (2) Dogs and cats can be combined on the same export certificate.
- (3) MPI is aware that some veterinary import permits contain or refer to a previous version of the agreed export certificate. The export certificate as found on the MPI website and presented as a sample version in the OMAR dated 19 April 2024 is the correct version to use.
 - a) The veterinary import permit may state that the animal is to be accompanied by the original veterinary import permit.
 - b) MPI understands that the original veterinary import permit is to be provided to the South Africa border upon the importation clearance procedure, but the original permit does not necessarily have to travel with the animal.
 - c) Dogs and cats will be able to be certified to South Africa using a copy of the issued veterinary import permit.
- (4) It is MPI's understanding that all dogs imported into South Africa will also require the Animal Improvement Compliance Permit issued by the Registrar of Animal Improvement of South Africa. It appears that no dogs will be issued the import permit without the Animal Improvement Compliance Permit being issued first.
Cats are exempted from the Animal Improvement Compliance Permit and will only require the veterinary import permit.
- (5) With regard to the box: Name and address of consignor, <LICENCE>, the registered exporter company name and MPI exporter registration number for the company are to be captured in this section if applicable.

- (6) With regards to Section IV, Clause 3 of the veterinary certificate, relating to official veterinary restrictions, is not affected by the existence of the *Biosecurity (declaration of a controlled area) Notice 1204 of 2 August 2001*, which stipulate control on feeding raw offal to dogs in relation to hydatid. New Zealand declared official freedom from hydatids in 2002.
- (7) With regards to clause 6.1, the samples for testing are to be sent to MPI Animal Health Laboratory.
- a) A copy of the specimen submission form can be found on the MPI website:
[Specimen Submission Form](#).
 - b) Samples required:
 - i) 4x fresh blood smears per animal
 - ii) At least 2x 4ml tubes red top blood or 2ml spun serum (preferably more in case re-testing is required)
 - iii) At least 2x 4ml purple top EDTA tubes.
 - c) Any queries relating to the above guidelines can be directed to the Specimen Reception department of the MPI Animal Health Laboratory.
Phone: (04) 894 5615 Email: Specimen.ReceptionWallaceville@mpi.govt.nz
 - d) It is the responsibility of the owner in collaboration with their veterinarian to ensure that all animal sampling and the delivery of samples to the MPI Animal Health Laboratory is completed as soon as possible so there is sufficient time for shipping and testing to occur in order to meet the planned export date. Any delay due to sample delivery to MPI (or incomplete paperwork or incorrect sample types) could possibly delay results and they may not meet the desired time frame.
 - e) It is the responsibility of the owner and/or veterinarian to inform MPI Animal Health Laboratory Specimen Reception using the contact details given below of any changes in the planned export date, as sample collection must occur within the 30 days preceding export.
 - f) In the event that any retesting is required due to an error or delay on behalf of the submitter, this shall be paid for in full by the submitter.
 - g) There is the possibility that despite the best efforts of MPI and the submitter, the subcontracting laboratory may encounter issues with the first set of samples and require additional samples to be sent for testing. MPI will work with the submitter to have the retesting performed as soon as practicable, however unless the determined issue is due to an error on behalf of the subcontracting laboratory, the submitter will be responsible for the costs of the additional testing.
- (8) With regards to Clause 6.3, the date of negative testing is the date of the blood draw, therefore the date of the initial heartworm treatment will be the same day as the blood samples are collected.
- (9) With regards to Clause 6.3, treatment for *Dirofilaria Immitis* (heartworm) must continue for six (6) months after arrival in South Africa. Heartworm drugs are not available in the Republic of South Africa and must be imported by the importer of the dog at the time of the importation of the dog(s) six (6) months' supply of treatment for *Dirofilaria immitis* is to be supplied and attached to the dog's crate.

4 Additional information

Further information taken from the requirements for the importation of dogs and cats to South Africa suggests:

- (1) All dogs and cats imported into South Africa must be registered as manifest cargo and cannot fly as excess baggage. The Directorate Veterinary Services does not have veterinary officials at the passenger terminal. The dogs and cats can only disembark via the cargo terminal of the respective airports.
- (2) The importer accepts the sole responsibility to ensure that the animal(s) exported, comply with the conditions and understands his/her duties in this regard.
- (3) Dogs and cats may travel in the cabin with the owner if allowed by the airline, but the animal(s) must be registered as manifest cargo and the airline staff must take the pets from the owner on landing so that they can be off loaded from the plane via the cargo terminal.
- (4) The arrival of the animal(s) must be reported to the Quarantine Master at the port of entry. The information pertaining to this will be supplied on the Import Permit, (the animal(s) will not be permitted to land without the Masters written permission).

- a) On arrival at the airport, the original Veterinary Import Permit, issued by the Directorate Veterinary Services and the original Veterinary Health Certificate, signed, stamped and certified by the Veterinary Authorities of New Zealand, must be presented to the veterinary officials at the airport before the animal(s) can be released.
 - b) The documents can either travel with the animal(s) or the person collecting the animal(s) must present the documents to the officials at the airport.
- (5) The animal(s) will not require quarantine providing all the necessary conditions of the import health certificate are met.
- (6) Animals subjected to post importation quarantine will, at the discretion of the Director of Animal Health of South Africa, be retested at the importers expense.

5 Additional information

- (1) If you are planning on returning to New Zealand with your pet in the future, please contact the MPI Animal Imports team to obtain all the relevant information on importing pets back into New Zealand, and if there is anything that can expedite your animals return to New Zealand. We strongly suggest that this is done before your pet is exported from New Zealand, as not every country can meet the New Zealand import conditions, and so you may not be able to import your pet back into New Zealand.

For all the necessary information on importation into New Zealand, contact animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz.

Disclaimer

This guidance does not constitute, and should not be regarded as, legal advice. While every effort has been made to ensure the information in this guidance is accurate, the Ministry for Primary Industries does not accept any responsibility or liability whatsoever for any error of fact, omission, interpretation or opinion that may be present, however it may have occurred.