

REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTATION OF DOGS AND CATS INTO SRI LANKA

The procedure and the requirements for importation are as follows

1. Application

The applicant should forward the application form using *Form I*, to the Director General, Department of Animal Production and Health (DG/DAPH ; Fax : 94 081 2389342), a minimum of two (02) weeks prior to intended date of import.

2. Health Requirements

Health requirement for the importation of dogs and Cats into Sri Lanka are as follows

2.1 Dogs

The importer should forward an *International Veterinary Certificate* issued by the Government Veterinary Authority in the country of origin of dogs attesting that;

- a. Dog has been kept in the country of origin since birth or for the six (06) months period immediately prior to export to Sri Lanka;
- b. Dog was found to be clinically healthy without any deformity at the time of dispatch;
- c. The country of origin of the animal is either free from rabies. If not, the origin of the animal is an area free from quarantine restrictions for rabies and not within a radius of 25 km from the nearest known case of rabies during the period of minimum six (06) months immediately prior to embarkation;
- d. The country of origin of the animal is free from heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) infestation. If not, the animals were treated with a microfilaricide twice, at an interval of two (02) weeks, and the second treatment has been done within four (04) weeks immediately prior to embarkation;
- e. The animal was not in contact with any animals showing any clinical sign of any infectious or contagious disease including Aujeszky's disease, Filariasis, Leptospirosis, Rabies, Canine distemper, Infectious hepatitis, Canine parvo virus infection, and Dermatomycosis for a period of minimum three (03) months immediately prior to embarkation;
- f. The animal was vaccinated against Rabies using an anti-rabies vaccine conforming to the potency standard given by the World Health Organization (WHO), not less than thirty (30) days and not more than six (06) months immediately prior to embarkation;

- g. In case of puppies under the age of three (03) months, the dam of the animal had been vaccinated against rabies using an approved anti-rabies vaccine, at least thirty (30) days but not less than six (06) months prior to the birth of this animal;
- h. The animal was vaccinated using recognized vaccines against Canine distemper, Infectious hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Canine parvo virus infection not less than twenty one (21) days and not more than four (04) months immediately prior to embarkation;
- i. Following tests have been carried out during the specific period and shown negative results;
 - Examination of blood smear for Babesiosis done within fourteen (14) days;
 - Examination of blood drop for the presence of microflaria (*Dirofilaria immitis*) within seven (07) days.
- j. The animal was treated within seven (07) days prior to shipment with a broad-spectrum anthelmintic recognized for its ability to eliminate internal helminths of dog; and
- k. The animal was treated for external parasites within seven (07) days immediately prior to shipment using a reliable parasiticide.

2.2 Cats

- a. The cat is clinically healthy, free from signs of any infectious and contagious diseases and without any deformity at the time of despatch;
- b. The cat was not in contact with any animal showing any clinical signs of any infectious or contagious disease including rabies, Aujeszky's disease, Filariasis, Leptospirosis for a period of minimum three (3) months immediately prior to embarkation;
- c. The cat has been vaccinated using recognised vaccines against feline panleucopaenia and rabies not less than 30 days and not more than 06 months immediately prior to embarkation;
- d. The cat has been treated for intestinal parasites using a broad- spectrum anthelmintic and, treated for external parasites within seven (07) days immediately prior to shipment using a reliable parasiticide;
- e. The cat has been tested for *Dirofilaria immitis* and /or treated as stated for this condition.

3. Issuing of Permits

Once the application is reviewed , DG /DAHP will issue the permit. The permit issued to applicant/importer is valid for 90 days from the date of issue.

4. Quarantine Inspection

- a. Upon arrival of animals the importer should forward the originals of the *International Veterinary Certificates* fulfilling requirements stated in the section(2) of this document, to the Animal Quarantine Officer, Katunayake Airport;
- b. Imported dogs/cats will be subjected to quarantine inspection at the Airport. If necessary samples will be taken for investigation;
- c. Imported dogs/cats will be subjected to an post-export quarantine period of thirty days (30) in the "owners premises". For this purpose, the importer should sign the *Quarantine Surveillance Agreement* with the Animal Quarantine Officer, Katunayake, at the time of importation

The exact location (address and the Tel. No) of the premises where imported dogs /cats intended to be kept, should be stated by the importer in the quarantine surveillance agreement.

5. Other Information

Srilanka is in the process of declaring its BSE (*Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy. Mad Cow Disease*) free status. Therefore import of cats from BSE infected countries have ben restricted at present.

Dr H.M.S.P. Herath.
Director General
Department of Animal Production and Health