

## GUIDANCE INFORMATION FOR EXPORTING U.S. ORIGIN PET DOGS AND CATS TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL

All pets must enter Israel through one of the following ports of entry: Ben Gurion Airport, Haifa seaport, Ashdod seaport and Eilat seaport.

All U.S. pet dogs and cats **must** be accompanied by the *Veterinary Health Certificate for Export of Pet Dogs and Cats from the United States of America to the State of Israel*, issued by a USDA accredited veterinarian and endorsed by USDA-APHIS, no more than 10 days prior to arrival.

The health certificate should be accompanied by a declaration by the owners (**Annex C\***) that the animals have been in their possession at least 90 days prior to being brought to Israel.

### **Import Permit Requirements:**

- The importation of pet dogs and cats to Israel requires an import permit/license issued by the Director of the Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (per the Israeli Animal Disease Ordinance (Animal Imports), 5734-1974).
- If two or less dogs and/or cats are imported as part of their owners accompanied baggage, then **no import permit is required.**
- Dogs and cats that are imported with import permit can arrive as cargo manifest only. Those animals will be inspected by the veterinary inspectors at the cargo warehouse Sunday through Thursday, from 06:00 to 24:00.

### **Required Pre-Notification of Arrival:**

- ALL importers/pet owners are required to transmit by fax or e-mail to the offices of the Veterinary Services at the port of entry a “Notification of Pet Arrival” (**Annex B\***), and the photocopy of the APHIS-endorsed veterinary certificate that will accompany the shipment.
  - Ben Gurion Airport e-mail: [vs-airport@moag.gov.il](mailto:vs-airport@moag.gov.il)
  - Haifa Fax: +972-4-8622455
  - Ashdod Fax: +972-8-8565673
  - Eilat Fax: +972-8-6323054
- The fax must be sent at least **TWO working days** prior to departure from the United States. The shipment will not to be released in Israel until this has been authorized by the Veterinary Services at the port of entry.

### **Restricted Dog Breeds:**

- Per the Israeli Regulations for the Control of Dogs (Imports of Dangerous Dogs), 5765 – 2004, it is **prohibited** to import a dog belonging to a dangerous breed, or any dog that is the result of a cross with a dangerous breed, or any dog that **possess physical traits similar** to those of dangerous breeds.

- The dangerous dog breeds include: American Staffordshire Bull Terrier (Amstaff), Bull Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, Staffordshire Bull Terrier (English Staff), Pitt Bull Terrier, Fila Brasileiro/Brazilian Mastiff, and Rottweiler.
- Exception can only be granted in the form of an import permit, issued on a case-by-case basis, by the Israeli Director of the Veterinary Services. To apply for import permit of a dangerous breed or cross, pet owners should email [vs-ie@moag.gov.il](mailto:vs-ie@moag.gov.il)
- USDA accredited veterinarians must not issue, nor should USDA-APHIS veterinarians endorse export health certificates for these dogs, unless the owner has a valid translated import permit from Israel, specific for dangerous dog breeds.

### **Rabies Vaccination Requirements:**

- Dogs and cats shall be no less than 4 months of age upon arrival in Israel.
- All pet dogs and cats must be current on their rabies vaccinations.
- If primary vaccination is needed, or if booster does not occur during the period of validity of the previous vaccination, this booster should be considered a primary vaccination, and animals are required to wait at least 30 days prior to importation.
- All dogs and cats must be microchipped **before** the most recent rabies vaccination with an ISO compliant microchip. If the chip is not ISO compliant, the importer/pet owner is required to provide their own microchip reader to the import official.
- All dogs and cats must have a rabies neutralizing antibody titer equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/ml from an OIE-approved laboratory. The sample must be taken more than 30 days after the primary rabies vaccination, and the laboratory results are valid for the life of the animal, as long as the dog/cat remains current on rabies vaccinations, according the vaccine manufacture instruction.

\* **Annex B** and **Annex C** are available on the APHIS Pet Travel Website for Israel. These documents do **not** need to be supplied for USDA-APHIS at the time of certificate endorsement.