Guidance for government approved veterinarians preparing dogs and cats for export to Australia

Australia's dog and cat import conditions are amongst the most stringent in the world, reflecting the absence of many dog and cat diseases from Australia. The Australian government strictly enforces import conditions.

Listed below are ten, simple but critical, things that government approved veterinarians can do, when preparing a dog or cat for export to Australia, that will help ensure the animal can be imported without having its quarantine period extended, or being re-exported or euthanased.

This list must be read in conjunction with the import permit and the relevant step-by-step guide available on the department's website.

1. Scan and verify the animal's microchip every time it is tested, treated or examined prior to export.

2. Accurately record the animal's microchip number on every document associated with the animal including any:
   a. treatment, vaccination and examination certificates
   b. laboratory submission forms which accompany blood samples for testing

3. Only administer compliant external parasite treatments to animals being prepared for export and record the product name and active ingredient(s) on the health certificate.
   a. A list (not exhaustive) of compliant external parasite treatments can be found on the department’s website.
   b. External parasite treatments must be topical (not oral) and kill ticks and fleas on contact.
   c. Bravecto® (fluralaner), NexGard® (afoxolaner), Advantage Mult® (moxidectin) and Revolution® (selamectin) are not compliant external parasite treatments.

4. Re-administer external parasite treatments in accordance with the manufacturer’s requirements so that coverage is continuous until export - if the product needs to be applied monthly, it must be applied no later than the 31st day from last application.

5. Administer internal parasite treatments that are effective against both nematodes (roundworms) and cestodes (tapeworms).

6. Administer any vaccines required by the import conditions strictly in accordance with the manufacturer’s requirements, including the primary course and any boosters. Record the vaccination date, product name and booster due date on the health certificate.

7. Fully complete any laboratory submission form including the animal's microchip number, date of blood sampling, date of signature and request the correct laboratory test type(s).

8. Verify that the animal’s microchip number is correct on any laboratory report received and that all laboratory reports include the date of blood sampling, laboratory test type, test results, and interpretation of results.

9. Provide the original laboratory reports to the exporter.

10. Ensure that only animals that are fit to travel to Australia and fit to undergo 10 days post-entry quarantine are prepared for export to Australia.

Further questions?
Send an email to: imports@agriculture.gov.au or phone +61 3 8318 6700
Leptospira interrogans sv. Canicola vaccination guidance for veterinarians preparing dogs for export to Australia

**Important:** The material below is provided as a guide only; the import permit will contain the definitive import conditions.

**Import conditions:**

In relation to *Leptospira interrogans* sv. Canicola (L. Canicola), the import conditions for dogs destined for export to Australia require that either:

1. The dog must be tested with a negative result (less than 50% agglutination) at a serum dilution of 1:100 using a microscopic agglutination test, on a blood sample collected within 45 days before export,  
   **OR**  
   2. The dog must be fully vaccinated against L. Canicola at least 14 days before export and the vaccination must be current at time of export.

**Note:** All current L. Canicola vaccinations and booster due dates must be recorded.

**Recommended decision pathway for veterinarians preparing dogs for export:**

**Note:** Primary course vaccine requirements may vary from product to product and before seeking advice from the department, the manufacturer’s recommendations should be reviewed and then strictly complied with.

**Note:** L. Canicola vaccines are **NOT** available in Australia so animals that are returning to Australia are unlikely to have been previously vaccinated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Has the dog completed the primary vaccine course for L. Canicola in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations in an approved country?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>The dog does not comply with the vaccination requirement, therefore recommend that the dog either:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. be tested for L. Canicola; <strong>OR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. complete the primary vaccine course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yes.</td>
<td>Go to 2.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Has the dog completed the primary L. Canicola vaccine course between 14 days and 12 months prior to export in an approved country?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes.</td>
<td>The dog complies with the vaccination requirement, therefore the dog is eligible for export.</td>
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<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Go to 3.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3. Has the dog completed the primary *L. Canicola* vaccine course less than 14 days prior to export?

   - **Yes.** The dog does not comply with the vaccination requirement, therefore recommend that the dog wait in the country of export until 14 days have elapsed from the date that primary vaccine course was completed.

     **Note:** Based on scientific literature, an animal that has recently completed the primary vaccine course would be expected to test positive.

   - **No.** Go to 4.

4. The primary *L. Canicola* vaccine course was administered greater than 12 months prior to the date of export in an approved country.

   Have booster vaccines been administered, in an approved country, every 12 months or less since the primary vaccine course, and has the most recent booster been administered between 14 days and 12 months prior to export in an approved country?

   - **Yes.** The dog complies with the vaccination requirement, therefore the dog is eligible for export.

   - **No.** The dog does not comply with the vaccination requirement, therefore recommend that the dog, as per the import conditions either:

     a. be tested for *L. Canicola*; **OR**

     b. repeat the primary vaccine course

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**Further questions?**

Send an email to: [imports@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:imports@agriculture.gov.au) or phone +61 3 8318 6700