

# STATE OF ISRAEL

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development,  
Veterinary Services and Animal Health, P.O.B 12, Beit-Dagan, 50250.

04/06/2020

To: Pet Owners  
Airline Companies

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Subject: Restriction on the Entry of Pets to Israel – Update of Special Regulations with regard to COVID-19**

This letter references our previous letter of 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

I would like to draw your attention to the following points:

1. Import of pets to Israel is controlled by the Regulations for Animal Diseases (Import of Animals), 1974 (henceforth, "the Regulations"), and according to the guidelines that have been published on the matter.
2. In the wake of the corona virus (covid-19) outbreak, the government has formulated a new regulation, Regulation for a Time of Emergency (New Corona Virus) (Quarantine instead of Government Quarantine Premises), 2020, that states that any Israeli citizen or resident who returns to Israel must be quarantined in government quarantine premises (henceforth, "hotel") for 14 days unless he received a written approval from the Ministry of Health that he was granted the possibility of alternative quarantine instead of hotel. Entry of pets to these hotels is forbidden. Therefore, in order to prevent the abandonment of pets who have arrived in Israel, it has been decided to further regulate the entry of pets to Israel.
3. Each passenger / importer must, prior to arriving in Israel, coordinate with a third party the collection of the pet from Ben Gurion in case it is decided upon arrival in Israel, that must stay in isolation in a hotel.
4. The passenger / importer must, prior to flight, provide full details (name, full address, contact details - telephone, mobile phone and email) of a party to whom the pet will be transferred for the duration of the stay in the isolation as far as decided.
5. Every passenger / importer must receive a written flight confirmation (by email) from the veterinary services at Ben Gurion Airport. In order to obtain the said approval, the following documents should be send to our office by e-mail [vs-airport@moag.gov.il](mailto:vs-airport@moag.gov.il): import license (as required), medical documentation, flight details and full details (name, full address, contact details - phone, mobile phone and email) of a party to whom the pet will be transferred.
6. Pets that arrive in Israel that do not comply with the aforementioned guidelines, are considered as animals imported without an import license or in contrary to it terms, and will be confiscated by the veterinary services or returned to their country of origin.
7. A passenger / importer who imports pets in violation of the aforementioned guidelines will be subject to enforcement proceedings and will bear all financial expenses incurred for returning the pets to and from the country of origin and / or handling them.
8. These guidelines are valid beginning the **04<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 and until further notice.**
9. We would appreciate your attention to the matter and your care in acting in accordance with the above guidelines.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Shlomo Garazi  
Chief Import & Export Veterinary Officer