



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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**GUIDELINES FOR TRAVELLING WITH LOCAL PETS AND PETS RESIDENT IN  
THE CAYMAN ISLANDS FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS**

**Annex I to Conditions Governing The Importation Of Dogs And Cats Into The Cayman Islands  
Animals Law (Law 8 Of 1976)**

These guidelines are for local pets and pets that have been continuously resident in the Cayman Islands for at least six months. Persons wishing to travel from and to the Cayman Islands on a repeated basis may obtain a multiple entry import permit (Animal Passport). Application forms are available from:

Veterinary Services  
Department of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 459 G.T.  
Grand Cayman  
Cayman Islands, B.W.I.

Tel: (345) 947-3090  
Fax: (345) 947-2634  
Email: [agrivet@candw.ky](mailto:agrivet@candw.ky)

**OBTAINING AN ANIMAL PASSPORT**

**A) PRELIMINARY PREPARATIONS** (To be done at least six weeks in advance of any travel plans):

The following procedures must be carried out **in the order shown below**:

- 1) Your pet must first be permanently identified with a microchip transponder or tattoo.  
*Only microchip brands accepted by the International Standards Organisation (Standard 11784 or Annex A to standard 11785) should be used. These include some AVID<sup>®</sup>, Home Again<sup>®</sup>, and Identichip<sup>®</sup> microchips... those that are read by 134.2 kHz scanners. Please note: not all microchips conform to this standard.*
- 2) After identification, a licensed veterinarian using an approved inactivated adjuvanted vaccine must then vaccinate your pet against rabies.  
**(Currently, only the Department of Agriculture is authorised to administer rabies vaccines in the Cayman Islands.)**  
*If your pet was vaccinated before being fitted with a microchip or tattoo it must be vaccinated again. The vaccine must be administered not less than thirty days and not more than one year prior to shipment. Your pet must be at least twelve (12) weeks old before the primary rabies vaccine is given. [N.B. The Department of Agriculture strongly recommends that animals that have received only a primary vaccine against rabies be given a booster vaccination 30 days later before the blood test is carried out.]*
- 3) A blood test must be taken after vaccination to check for protective antibodies against rabies. *The blood test, a neutralising antibody titration test, must be carried out by a laboratory approved by the Cayman Islands Government for carrying out such a test, not more than 24 months prior to travel. The test result must show a serum antibody level of at least 0.5 IU/ml and must bear the animal's permanent identification number. (We recommend that you wait 14 to 30 days after vaccination to have the blood test since antibody response to the vaccine usually takes this length of time.)*  
**Once a successful result of the blood test is received, your pet will be eligible to apply for an Animal Passport.**
- 4) A completed Application form, the rabies vaccination certificate, a copy of the rabies titre laboratory report and an application fee (single entry: C\$50.00 (US\$61.00); multiple entry passport: C\$150 (US\$183) must be submitted to the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture for processing.  
*The documents will be processed and a reply given to you within three (3) working days.*
- 5) If successful, an Animal Passport will be issued.

## **B) BEFORE DEPARTURE**

- 6) **Within 14 days of the scheduled date of travel your pet must be treated for tapeworms and ticks.**  
*For tapeworms: a preparation containing **praziquantel** at a dose rate of 5mg/kg body weight.*  
*For ticks: a topical preparation known to have residual action. A product containing **fipronil** is preferred.*  
*Other approved products include amitraz, pyrethrins, and permethrins. The following products are **NOT** acceptable: shampoos, collars, preparations that are licensed for control of fleas only (e.g. Program® Advantage®, Revolution® or Sentinel®).*
- 7) **Also within 14 days of the scheduled date of travel, your pet must be examined and issued with an Export Health Certificate, issued by the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture.**

## **C) RETURNING TO THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**

- 8) If your pet's stay overseas has been 14 days or less, you need only present your valid animal passport, along with the Export Health Certificate obtained prior to departure (see (7) above), to the Agricultural Inspector upon arrival.
- 9) If your pet's stay overseas is for more than 14 days, you must obtain and present to the Agricultural Inspector upon arrival in the Cayman Islands, in addition to the valid Animal Passport, an Official Health Certificate, as outlined in Section D below.

## **D) OFFICIAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE (valid for a period of 14 days only)**

*An Official Veterinary Health Certificate is a document issued and endorsed by a veterinarian employed full time by the government of the country of origin (e.g. USDA, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, DEFRA in the UK). The document may be filled out and signed by a licensed veterinarian, but must also be endorsed by a government veterinarian.*

**The Official Health Certificate is valid for a period of 14 days only.**

### **10) The official health certificate must have the following information:**

- The name and address of the owner/agent;
- A description of the animal to be imported;
- The microchip or tattoo identification number of the animal;
- The date of the last rabies vaccination (including vaccine make and batch number);
- The date of other vaccinations (DHLPP, FVRCP);
- The seal number of the container in which the pet is being transported along with the signature and stamp of the official affixing the seal. (*See part E, Transportation Instructions*);

The health certificate must have the following statements:

- As best as can be ascertained the animal is not infected with any communicable disease and is free from external parasites.
- The animal has not been kept within 30 miles of an area officially quarantined for Foot and Mouth Disease during the past 30 days (this does not apply to dogs and cats arriving directly from the USA, Canada or CARICOM territories).
- The animal has been continually resident in the country of origin since exportation from the Cayman Islands, or for the past 6 months prior to export and as best as can be ascertained has not been exposed to rabies or has not been present within the past 6 months in an officially quarantined or designated rabies area
- The animal has been treated on the day of examination with an acaricidal preparation, which is known to have residual action against ticks (include the name of the acaricidal product).
- The animal has been treated on the day of examination with a preparation containing praziquantel at a dose rate of 5mg/kg body weight, which is known to be effective against tapeworms.
- The animal was subjected to a neutralising antibody titration test within the past 24 months with a result of 0.5IU/ml or greater.

***The certificate should be written in English. In such circumstances as may be warranted, it should also be written in a language understood by the certifying veterinarian.***

## **E) PROHIBITIONS**

In accordance with the Animals Law (Law 8 of 1976), no animal of any description may be imported into the Cayman Islands from any country in Asia, Africa or Central and South America. Other territories from which dogs and cats are prohibited are Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

## **F) ELIGIBILITY FOR IMPORTATION**

These conditions apply to specified countries or territories in which rabies is absent or well controlled. These are as follows:

- a) Territories recognised as being rabies free by the Cayman Islands Government:**  
Antigua, Australia, Barbados, Bermuda, Great Britain, Hawaii, Ireland (Rep), Jamaica, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, St Vincent.
  
- b) Territories recognised where rabies is well controlled:**  
Anguilla, Aruba, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Curacao, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guadeloupe, Hawaii, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Martinique, Monaco, Montserrat, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Martin, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad And Tobago, US Virgin Islands, USA, Vatican.

Notwithstanding section D 1., territories not listed above may make representation to the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture for inclusion in the above lists.

## **G) TRANSPORTATION INSTRUCTIONS**

- 11) You must give at least 48 hours notice of expected date and time of arrival, along with details of the vessel or airline (e.g. Airline and flight number).
- 12) All animals travelling to the Cayman Islands must do so by the most direct route possible.
- 13) Animals travelling by air must be carried in an approved container, which meets standards set, by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- 14) **The animals must travel as manifest cargo.** All documents accompanying the animal must be affixed to the container.
- 15) If travelling other than by direct route from the country of origin, through a territory not on the approved list, the door of the container must be sealed with a government approved seal in the country of origin before the animal is loaded onto the aircraft or vessel with the number on the seal entered onto the health certificate by an airline or government official (e.g., agriculture, customs).

## **H) INSPECTION ON ARRIVAL**

Possession of a valid Import Permit does not guarantee entry. All animals and documents are subject to examination at the port of entry by an approved inspector. Should the animal fail to meet entry requirements, the Chief Agricultural and Veterinary Officer may at his discretion and at the expense of the importer, order that the animal be refused entry and returned immediately or be destroyed. Detention or quarantine is **NOT** an option in the Cayman Islands.

**THE CHIEF AGRICULTURAL AND VETERINARY OFFICER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ENTRY OF ANY ANIMAL FOR ANY REASON.**