

EXPORT OF DOGS AND CATS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO JAMAICA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 2912EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 2912EHC. We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 2912EHC may be used for the export of dogs and cats from the United Kingdom to Jamaica.

Import of any of the following dog breeds into Jamaica is not permitted: Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Japanese Tosa or Pit Bull Terrier.

Import of a hybrid dog or cat, that is to say, offspring of domestic dogs or cats crossed with other species into Jamaica is not permitted.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government, Welsh Government or the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Northern Ireland, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

The Official Veterinarian must complete, sign and stamp ALL pages of this export health certificate.

The official veterinarian must also sign and stamp each page of the following documents which must be attached to the export health certificate:

- Ehrlichia canis laboratory report
- Leishmania infantum laboratory report
- Brucella canis laboratory report (where applicable)
- Leptospira interrogans serovar canicola laboratory report (if not vaccinated)
- Rabies vaccination certificate(*)
- FAVN Laboratory Report.

(*) Jamaica's authorities have confirmed that for the Rabies Vaccination Certification, a copy of the pet passport endorsed by the Official Veterinarian or a letter by the Official Veterinarian on his/her veterinary practice headed paper is sufficient.

Any corrections made to the veterinary health certificate must be struck through, remain legible and be signed and stamped by the official veterinarian. Correction fluid must not be used.

Certified Copy Requirements - England, Wales and Scotland

Guidance concerning return of certified copies of EHCs has changed and only specific certified copies are required to be returned to the APHA. Certifying OVs must return a certified copy of EHCs only for the following EHC types:

- if the exported commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids;
- if the certificate was applied for manually and the application documents have been emailed to APHA and not applied for via the Exports Health Certificates Online (EHCO) system.

Certified copies should be emailed on the day of signature to the Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC) at the following address: certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk.

For certificates that have been issued to the Certifying OV via the EHCO system, the Certifying OV must complete the certifier portal with the status of the certificate and the date of signature.

A copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified must be retained for two years.

Certifying OVs are not required to return certified copies of other EHCs issued, however CITC may request certified copies of EHCs and supporting documentation in order to complete Quality Assurance checks or if an issue arises with the consignment after certification.

DAERA Export Health Certificates: Provision of certified copies

aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates must return a legible, scanned copy of the final EHC to the relevant DAERA Processing Office within 1 working day of signing.

Good quality photographic copies will be accepted by the department, where obtaining a scanned copy is not feasible - for example, where 'on site' certification is undertaken and scanning facilities are not available.

For record purposes, a copy of the final Export Health Certificate and associated Support documents should be retained by the aPVP for a period of 2 years from the date of certification.

The Department will carry out periodic audits of all aspects of export certification to ensure that a high standard of certification is being maintained.

3. Import Permit

A completed Preliminary Application Form (available on the Ministry's website: www.moa.gov.jm), along with all supporting documentation must be submitted by email to vsdpermits@gmail.com or in hard copy, to the Permit Unit.

- Supporting documentation include:
 - FAVN Report.
 - Veterinary Health Certificate.
 - In the case of service dogs, registration/documentation from one or more of the following organizations
 - Assistance Dogs International or its associates;
 - the European Disability Forum;
 - the European Guide Dog Federation;
 - the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners;
 - the International Guide Dog Federation;
 - the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations.

Every applicant for a veterinary import permit to import a dog or cat into Jamaica must provide evidence that the dog or cat complies with **all** import requirements as outlined, before a permit can be issued. The VSD will not issue an import permit until a copy of the model veterinary health certificate for the importation of dogs and cats into Jamaica from approved countries in accordance with **Regulation 10**, completed by an official veterinarian of the country of export is presented.

- After the review of supporting documentation, the successful

applicant will then complete the application online using the MOAT trade system at www.moatrade.gov.jm for a veterinary import permit to enter the island.

- Applicants are required to pay a cost of J\$5000.00 or its foreign currency equivalent, for a veterinary import permit payable online (via debit or credit card), or at the cashier at the Veterinary Services Division (cash, credit or debit card).
- **Import permits for dogs and cats are valid for up to three (3) months from the date of issue.**
- If you are likely to return to Jamaica with your dog or cat it is recommend that you notify and discuss this with the Veterinary Officer, Quarantine, **prior to** leaving Jamaica.
- Please be aware that when your dog or cat **leaves Jamaica**, it **immediately** loses its Jamaican health status. As such, you **may not** be able to return with this dog or cat to Jamaica without a review by the veterinary officer, Permit Unit with the subsequent issuance of a veterinary import permit for the dog or cat. A health certificate from the exporting country will also be required.

4. **Microchip Identification**

Paragraph I refers. It is a requirement that all that all dogs and cats entering Jamaica MUST be permanently identified with a microchip (ISO Standard 11784 or Annex A to standard 11785).

Dogs and cats must be identified by an ISO standard microchip that can be read by an Avid or other ISO compatible reader. The scanned microchip number must be correctly recorded on all documentation. If the microchip cannot be read or is recorded incorrectly across the dog's or cat's documentation, it will not be eligible for import to Jamaica. If the dog or cat was vaccinated for rabies prior to being fitted with a microchip, the dog or cat must be re-vaccinated after the microchip is implanted.

5. **Clinical Examinations**

Paragraph III (a) refers. The clinical examination should be carried out within the 7 days prior to export.

Paragraphs III (f) (l) i, (p) and (q) refer. Animals should be examined as required in these paragraphs.

Paragraphs III (e) refers. For faecal examinations, it should be checked that there is no evidence of internal parasites at microscopic exam. There is no requirement for laboratory testing.

Any references to "approved veterinarian" should be understood as references to F/M RCVS in the UK; it is not a requirement to be an Official Veterinarian approved for export certification to provide such assurances. The final signatory OV can certify the applicable assurances on the basis of a support veterinary certificate from a F/M RCVS and he/she should keep this copies of the relevant support certification used for this purpose.

6. **Owner's declaration (quarantine restrictions and pregnancy/suckling status/mating)**

Paragraph III (b), (c) and (o) ii refer. The OV must be satisfied that the animal is not pregnant or suckling at the time of export and that it is not under any quarantine restrictions or that it has been mated to a dog of lesser *Brucella canis* health status in the 45 days prior to the date of export;. Owner's declarations can be used for this purpose. The OV should retain the written declaration for record purposes

7. **Rabies**

Paragraph III (d) refers.

- Rabies vaccinations with three (3) year validity are acceptable. However, a booster vaccination must be given within 12 months of export to Jamaica [and in the case of animals with only primary vaccination, this should have been completed between three (3) and twelve (12)

months of export to Jamaica].

- The dog or cat must be vaccinated against the rabies virus with an approved inactivated vaccine. Only vaccines produced in compliance with the recommendations of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Manual should be used. Any products licensed/authorised in the UK meet such standards.
- The dog must be vaccinated with an inactivated rabies virus vaccine that:
 - was given when the dog was at least 90 days or 3 months of age, whichever is greater
 - is still within its validity period, in accordance with the manufacturer's directions and within the periods required by Jamaica as above at the time of export
- The dog or cat has achieved a post-vaccination rabies virus neutralizing antibody titre of at least 0.5 IU/mL **between three months and twelve months before importation** (the reference date is the date when the blood sample has been drawn for testing);
- A result of less than 0.5 IU/ml is not acceptable and in this circumstance the dog or cat must be re-vaccinated and the testing process repeated.
- The Rabies Neutralizing Antibody Test must be a fluorescent antibody virus neutralization (FAVN) test and MUST be done by an OIE/WHO approved rabies reference laboratory (for example Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory, Kansas State University, USA; **Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Weybridge, United Kingdom**).
- **The laboratory reports must:**
 - be in English;
 - be completed on the testing laboratory's letterhead;
 - include:
 - the dog's microchip number;
 - the date the blood was drawn and the date of arrival of the blood sample the laboratory;
 - the signature of the authorized person issuing the laboratory report;
 - the country where the blood sample was collected;
 - the test type and test result.
- The dog or cat may only be eligible for entry into the Jamaica not less than three (3) months and not more than twelve (12) months after the date the blood sample that gave a successful fluorescent antibody virus.

8. **Treatments and Tests**

Paragraphs III (e), (f), (g) i, (k) and (l) ii refer. All treatments must be carried out as stipulated on the 2912EHC and must be licensed for use in the UK. The date of treatment, active ingredient, product name and dose rate must be stated on the certificate where required.

In reference to III (e), it may be difficult to find a treatment specifically licenced for the treatment of trematodes in dogs. The OV may consider using a treatment licenced for nematodes & cestodes, and if confirmation of its efficacy it received from the manufacturer, may also certify it as a treatment against trematodes.

Jamaica's authorities have confirmed that examinations/test other than rabies, e.g. coccidiosis/helminths examinations, heartworm, ehrlichiosis testing etc may be performed at private laboratories (that are officially accredited under ISO17025 standards for the relevant test/pathogen) that the veterinary practices normally use as an alternative to use a government

laboratory. It is at the OV and exporter/owner discretion to decide if government or private laboratories are used to provide the relevant assurances for export.

Jamaica's authorities have also confirmed that testing for *Babesia canis*, *Babesia gibsoni*, *Borrelia Burgdorferi* and *Ehrlichia canis* may be accomplished by any validated test, ELISA being also acceptable, rather than the ELISA test being required in any case. So, for example, a validated IFAT test for *Ehrlichia canis* is acceptable without the need for an ELISA test in addition.

9. **Vaccinations** (other than rabies)

Paragraph III (g) ii, (h) (dogs only) and (i) (cats only) refer. All vaccination must be made following manufacturer's instructions.

For canine adenovirus (paragraphs III (h) iii. and iv.), a separate 'type 1' vaccination would not be required if, according to the manufacturer, the 'type 2' vaccination offers protection against infectious hepatitis (adenovirus type 1) in addition to the respiratory adenovirus type 2. In this case, the same date of vaccination can be entered in both parts.

10. **Notification of Arrival**

- At least three weeks' notice of arrival of the dog or cat, with a further forty-eight (48) hours confirmation shall be given to the Director of Veterinary Services via the Permit Unit at vsdpermits@gmail.com. The Animal Landing Notification Form should be included as an attachment.
- The Animal Landing Notification Form must be completed at least two (2) days prior to arrival and submitted to the Permit Unit with the following information:
 - Name, address (in Jamaica) and contact information of the owner/agent;
 - Name and contact information of the Customs broker;
 - Date and time of arrival;
 - Airline and Flight number or vessel name.

11. **Travel to Jamaica**

- The dog or cat must arrive directly into Kingston, unless otherwise authorized under law by the Chief Veterinary Officer.
- Dogs and cats must travel as manifested cargo in compliance with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) approved standards.
- The dog or cat must travel in an International Air Transport Association (IATA) approved crate.
- With the exception of service dogs, all dogs and cats will be checked at the freight terminal, not the passenger terminal.
- The dog or cat must arrive in Jamaica prior to the expiration date of the import permit.

12. **Landing of Animals**

The Importer must notify the Jamaica Customs Agency of the pending arrival of the dog or cat and must verify with the Jamaica Customs Agency the requisite Custom's fees applicable. This may also be accomplished by employing the services of a custom's broker.

In accordance with local law, upon arrival in Jamaica, dogs and cats must be examined by an official veterinarian. The veterinarian will:

- examine the dog or cat, verify that the animal is in good health and free from any signs or symptoms of infectious or contagious diseases, including the infectious or contagious diseases listed in the Sixth Schedule
- Conduct a documentary check in relation to the dog or cat.

- Determine further action for quarantine or release.

13. **Post Entry Quarantine**

In accordance with local law, upon entry into Jamaica, dogs and cats must undergo at least (fourteen) 14 days quarantine at the National Quarantine Facility, Plumb Point.

- Upon arrival, an official veterinarian will:
 - examine the dog or cat, verify that the animal is in good health and free from any signs or symptoms of infectious or contagious diseases, including the infectious or contagious diseases listed in the Sixth Schedule
 - Conduct a documentary check in relation to the dog or cat.
- Where the inspector determines that the dog or cat is of good health and free from symptoms of infectious or contagious diseases, including the infectious or contagious diseases set out in the Sixth Schedule, the inspector may:
 - permit the dog or cat to enter the Island;
 - require the dog or cat to undergo post-entry quarantine for a period of not less than fourteen days; and
 - in the case of a special service dog or a dog or cat travelling under an approved pet travel scheme, permit the dog or cat to be transported to a place approved by the inspector, at the owner's expense, subject to such terms and conditions as the inspector considers necessary.

Terms and Conditions of place approved by the Inspector for Service Dogs.

- Place is inspected by veterinary inspector approximately fourteen (14) days prior to importation, to determine the suitability of the location.
- No other dogs or cats should be present at location.

14. **In-Transit/Transshipment of dogs/cats**

- Permission may be given for transit/transshipment of a dog or cat via Jamaica. However, prior authorization must be sought from the VSD.
- Dogs being transhipped must not leave the international/air side of the airport.

INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR TRANSIT OF DOGS AND CATS

- country of origin
- date of arrival
- arrival vessel/craft name and number
- port of entry
- time of arrival
- period of transit
- date of departure
- departure vessel/craft name and number time of departure country of destination

15. **WELFARE**

Exporters and transporters must comply with all the legislation for the welfare of live animals during transport. The welfare conditions required during transport, are set out in Council Regulation EC No 1/2005 (as retained), implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, with parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales.

If transported by air, animals should also be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Information about welfare during transport in Great Britain and the necessary requirements can be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency: Welfare in Transport Team

Centre for International Trade
Eden Bridge House
Lowther Street, Carlisle
CA3 8DX
Phone: +44 (0) 3000 200 301
E-mail: WIT@apha.gov.uk

Or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.

16. **DISCLAIMER**

This certificate is provided on the basis of information available at the time, and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country. It is the exporter's responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country. If these do not match, the exporter should contact the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or DAERA, via the link or e-mail address below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>

DAERA - Email: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk