

## EXPORT OF DOGS (INCLUDING ASSISTANCE DOGS) FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO AUSTRALIA

### NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

#### 1. IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 2580EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the certificate 2580EHC. 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.

The certifying OV MUST ensure that the correct procedures are followed during the preparation of the dog for export and that the certificate and associated documents are completed fully, completely and diligently.

In August 2024, DEFRA and The Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) agreed a new process for export of dogs from the United Kingdom to Australia.

Full guidance for Official Veterinarians on preparing dogs to comply with Australian importing requirements can be found here:

[https://www.improve-ov.com/instructions/instructions.php?ta=ta\\_default](https://www.improve-ov.com/instructions/instructions.php?ta=ta_default)

These following documents must be attached to the export health certificate:

1. RNATT declaration - blank copy of UK RNATT declaration can be found [here](#)
2. Identification (ID) - blank copy of UK ID declaration can be found [here](#)

3. Laboratory reports: These are non-defra documents, but if the dog is fully prepared in the United Kingdom, they can be signed and stamped by an Official Veterinarian.

- RNATT lab report
- *Leishmania infantum* laboratory report
- *Brucella canis* laboratory report (if not desexed)
- *Leptospira interrogans serovar* laboratory report (if not vaccinated)

To note: If the dog has undergone some of the preparation in a DAFF approved country outside of the UK, with any of the above documents being issued based on this work done abroad, then such documents should not be signed and stamped by the Official Veterinarian but should just be attached to the EHC and fan stamped in with the EHC. Refer to Annex B for more details.

DAFF have prepared "Leptospira interrogans sv. Canicola vaccination guidance for veterinarians preparing dogs for export to Australia" - link can be found here:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/cats-dogs/leptospiral-dogs.pdf>

The EHC must contain the signature, date and stamp of the official government veterinarian on each page (with the stamp of the government veterinary administration). The date must conform to the day/month/year format. If the dog is fully prepared in the United Kingdom, the other documents e.g. laboratory reports and tables which form part of the extended health certification must also contain this information.

#### 2. IMPORT PERMIT / RNATT

Step-by-step guidance to the Australian import conditions is given on the website: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/cats-dogs/step-by-step-guides/category-3-step-by-step-guide-for-dogs>

Part 4.4: The application requires the completion, stamping and signature of the

Rabies Vaccination and Rabies Neutralising Antibody Titre Test (RNATT) declaration by an Official Veterinarian.

UK RNATT declaration document was agreed between DEFRA and DAFF. This document must be used for all exports when the dog is fully prepared in the UK. Blank copy can be found here: <https://www.improve-ov.com/instructions/>

Part 5: Once the RNATT declaration is in place, an application must be made for an import permit, by the exporter, which is valid for 12 months from the date of issue. The application must be done online via the website: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/online-services/bicon>

DAFF aims to grant all import permit applications within 20-40 business days of completed applications being received and paid for in full, provided that all required information is received at the time of submission. However, DAFF informs on their website that it can take up to 6 months in some complex cases.

3. **SCOPE OF THE EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE**

The completed export health certificate may be used for the export of dogs, including eligible assistance dogs, from the United Kingdom to Australia. A separate EHC should be completed for each animal.

In the case of assistance dogs, there are some important transport, arrival and post-arrival steps that differ from the standard (pet) dog import process. These are detailed at

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/cats-dogs/assistance-dogs>

4. **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 should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK.**

Any corrections made to the 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](mailto: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**

Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) certifying DAERA Export Certification On-Line (DECOL) produced EHCs 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.

5. **IDENTIFICATION**

The details of the dog's description and identification are to be inserted in the table of Part I of the Export Health Certificate. The dog must be identified by a microchip that can be read by an Avid®, Trovan®, Destron®, or other ISO compatible reader. The microchip must be implanted before Rabies vaccination, and before any testing takes place, and the number must be stated on every document as well the export health certificate. It must be checked by the attending veterinarian before every procedure (eg sampling, treatment, examination) is undertaken. DAFF has made it clear that it will not entertain any amendments to documents (eg the RNATT) if the microchip is incorrectly recorded in the first instance.

In Part IV Point 2, one of the options must be certified.

- When the dog was exported from Australia, copy of export permit must be attached to the certificate.

Returning Australian animals can use their Australian export permit as proof of identity and do NOT need to undergo an identify check using OV66 OVs process to be eligible for the 10-day PEQ.

- When the dog was fully prepared in the UK using two OV66 OV process, enter both dates when the dog underwent identity verification. Both verifications must be carried out by two different UK Ovs, who do not work at the same practice, and who both have OV66 specific approval. Both dates must be at least 180 days prior to the scheduled date of export. Copy of both UK ID declarations must be attached to the certificate and signed and stamped by the certifying OV.

Detailed guidance on 10- days Post-Entry Quarantine (PEQ) eligibility process is outlined under **ANNEX A** of this document.

- When the dog was partially prepared in an approved country outside of the UK, enter name of the approved country, and the date when the dog underwent identity verification by government -employed veterinarian outside of the UK. The foreign ID declaration must be attached to the certificate and fan stamped but does not need to be endorsed by certifying veterinarian. Please also refer to guidance under point 6. of this document.

More information on the partial preparation in DAFF approved country is outlined under **ANNEX B** of this document.

- When the dog has not undergone an identify verification by two Ovs with the oV66 DAFF specific approval, the minimum PEQ will be 30 days.

In this case the rabies preparation in UK for at least 30-days PEQ eligibility will apply. More detailed guidance on this process can be found under **ANNEX C** of this document.

6. **OWNER'S DECLARATION**

There is no standard form provided by Defra for this document. It is the owner/exporter's responsibility to produce such a document.

**Paragraph IV 4. (v)**: Although Australia allows dogs prepared or part prepared in

another approved country - see <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/cats-dogs/frequently-asked-questions/glossary-for-cat-and-dog-import-permit-applications#approved-country> for a list of countries considered 'approved' by Australia - to move to the UK for final certification prior to export, extreme care must be exercised before dogs are certified under this option. All procedures (microchip implantation, vaccination, sampling etc) must have been carried out in the approved country and samples tested at an official laboratory in the approved country. These facts must then be officially certified by an official veterinarian (government or government approved veterinarian) in the approved country. It may be difficult to ascertain this information, even by APHA/Defra, but if the certifying OV has any concerns, the Centre for International Trade in Carlisle must be consulted in the first instance for advice.

7. **RABIES VACCINATION AND NEUTRALISING ANTIBODY TITRE TEST (RNATT)**  
Paragraphs IV. 5 and 6. Refer (but see 'IMPORTANT' note below).

Vaccination

Every dog must be vaccinated against rabies with a government approved inactivated rabies virus vaccine when at least 84 days old. The details of the test should be inserted in the table at IV(5).

In this context, "government approved vaccine" means a vaccine with a current marketing authorisation for use in dogs. If the vaccination has been carried out in another country, and the animal was legally imported into the UK under PETS, then the vaccine can be considered to be government approved - see guidance at paragraph 7 above.

If the animal has never been previously rabies vaccinated, it is recommended that at least four (4) weeks elapse between the rabies vaccination and blood sampling. This will enable the animal to produce sufficient antibodies to record a positive test result.

RNATT

The date of blood sampling must be between **180 days and 12 months** prior to export. The details of the test should be inserted in the table at IV(5).

The exporter must arrange for Official Veterinarian (and when preparation is for 10-day PEQ eligibility, it must be official veterinarian with DAFF OV66 authorization) to **scan the animal's microchip** and collect a blood sample for the RNATT. Ensure the animal's microchip number, as scanned, is written on the blood tube and on the laboratory submission form. The blood test, a neutralising antibody titration test, must be carried out by an officially authorised laboratory. A list of approved rabies serology laboratories in the UK can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rabies-blood-testing-laboratories-in-the-uk>

Rabies serology may also be carried out in non-UK laboratories provided the laboratory is officially approved by the country designated by Australia as an approved country - see guidance at paragraph 7 above.

A list of approved rabies serology laboratories in the EU MSs (all of which are approved countries for exports to Australia) can be found at the following link:- [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/approved-labs\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/approved-labs_en)

The microchip number and blood sampling date must be consistent between the RNATT laboratory report and RNATT declaration before an import permit can be granted.

The laboratory report must include the animal's microchip number, the blood sampling date and a result of greater than or equal to 0.5 IU/ml. If a result of less than 0.5 IU/ml is obtained the dog must be re-vaccinated and the process repeated.

Copies of the RNATT laboratory report and rabies vaccination certificate must be shown to the Official Veterinarian in order for the Rabies Vaccination and Rabies Neutralising Antibody Test (RNATT) declaration to be completed. The OV must check that the dog's identification details in the application for the permit to import cats and dogs match the vaccination and RNATT documents presented.

**DAFF has decreed that the RNATT reports are not amended without prior written consent from DAFF. The certifying OV should bear this in mind when completing the sample submission form and ensure the microchip number is correctly transposed on to it. The official laboratory to which the sample has been sent should not be asked to amend the RNATT report once it has been issued if the number is**

**incorrectly transposed.** The certifying OV or exporter must get written permission from DAFF before any changes can be made to a previously issued report, which also includes reports issued by official laboratories in other MSs to enable the animal to enter the UK under PETS; and they should copy CIT, Carlisle into their correspondence on this.

**The Rabies Vaccination and Rabies Neutralising Antibody (RNATT) Declaration is included in the application form to import dogs.**

**IMPORTANT:** DAFF policy used to dictate that the rabies vaccination must be valid (continually) for the 180 days prior to the date of export and that the dog maintains a current vaccination status against rabies virus for at least 180 days immediately before export. However, this was amended in 2015 to just require the vaccine to be valid at the time of export.

8. **TICK TREATMENTS**

A long acting acaricide that is registered for control of ticks/fleas must be used for treatment which must be capable of killing ticks/fleas on contact. Treatments that rely on ticks biting the dog are not acceptable. Treatment must be repeated to prevent re-infection according to the manufacturer's instructions until export to ensure protection is continuous.

**IMPORTANT:** Particular attention must be paid to ensure that the treatment has been correctly applied and is effective. The dog must be examined thoroughly for the presence of ticks/fleas at every opportunity from the start of the treatment up until certification for export. If ticks/fleas are found at any stage, treatment and testing must be repeated (sub-paragraph ii (b) refers). Treatment must be continuously protective (i.e. repeated in accordance with manufacturer's directions, for example, a monthly product must be re-applied with no longer than 31 days between treatment) until the time of export.

9. **LEISHMANIA TESTING**

Paragraphs IV. 5 and 8 refer.

**IFAT TEST** - This is the preferred test as it is accredited. The test sample for Leishmaniosis requires 2ml of blood or 1ml of serum in a plain tube (no anticoagulant), and must be sent to APHA, Weybridge. The test result will be reported as negative at a dilution of 1:50.

**ELISA TEST** - If required, the ELISA test is also available at APHA, Weybridge. The type of sample required is 2ml of whole blood.

10. **LEPTOSPIROSIS TESTING**

Paragraphs IV. 5 and 9 refer.

Samples for testing must be sent to APHA, Weybridge. A negative result means less than 50% agglutination at a serum dilution of 1:100.

'Fully vaccinated' means if previous vaccination has lapsed, a primary course needs to be re-started, and the second dose must have been given at least 14 days before the date of export. The vaccination must be 'in date' at the time of export.

Please also refer to **Annex A** for further detail.

11. **BRUCELLA TESTING / BREEDING RESTRICTIONS - not applicable for de-sexed dogs.**

Paragraphs IV. 4. 5 and 10 refer.

**Evidence that the dog has been de-sexed:** It may be difficult to ascertain whether a bitch has been de-sexed if it was spayed by another (not the owner's regular) vet or it was bought already spayed. In these circumstances, the vet who carried out the spaying may be tracked down, and depending on how good the records are (linked to microchip etc), could provide a statement. Or the dog can be scanned by ultrasound or x-rayed. DAFF does not specify what constitutes acceptable evidence, but relies on the judgement/opinion of the certifying OV. If in doubt, the dog should be subjected to a test for Brucella canis.

The Serum Agglutination Test (SAT) (also known as the Tube Agglutination Test, TAT) is preferable and this is the test that must be requested. 2ml clotted blood or 1 ml serum is required. Samples must be sent to APHA, Weybridge. A negative test result means less than 50% agglutination at a serum dilution of 1:100.

From at least 14 days prior to the collection of sample and until export to

Australia, the dog cannot be mated or inseminated.

12. **CANINE BABESIOSIS - only applicable if the dog had travelled to mainland Africa.**  
Paragraphs IV. 4. 5 and 11 refer.

A dog which has spent part of its life in Africa must be treated for Babesia canis Rossi using imidocarb dipropionate prior to the date of export. There is no imidocarb based product licensed in the UK for the treatment of dogs. OVs may use another imidocarb product licensed for use in other species under the 'cascade principle'.

13. **OTHER DOCUMENTATION TO INCLUDE**

In addition to the valid import permit and completed Veterinary Export Health Certificate (2580EHC), **Laboratory Reports** for the following tests must accompany the dog to Australia:

- **Brucella canis (if not de-sexed)**
- **Leishmania infantum**
- **Leptospira canicola (if not vaccinated)**
- **Rabies Neutralising Antibody Titre (RNAT) test and declaration.**

These documents must be attached to the export health certificate and fan stamped by the certifying veterinarian. If dog is fully prepared in the UK, the original Laboratory Reports or copies, can also be **signed** and **stamped by the certifying veterinarian.**

14. **BOOKING QUARANTINE ACCOMMODATION**

On receipt of the DAFF import permit, the exporter will need to contact the relevant Animal Quarantine Station to make a booking for the dog.

The granting of an DAFF import permit does not guarantee a space at the preferred Animal Quarantine Station. Due to high demand, some stations may require bookings to be made in advance.

The exporter must confirm the booking by providing an air waybill number to the Animal Quarantine Station closer to the date of departure.

15. **CONFIRMING QUARANTINE ACCOMMODATION BOOKING**

Once travel arrangements have been made and prior to export of the dog, the exporter must contact the Animal Quarantine Station to confirm the animal's booking. He/she will need to provide:

- A valid DAFF Import Permit number
- Flight number and date of arrival in Australia
- Air waybill number
- Contact telephone number
- Details of any special needs your dog may have

16. **TRANSPORTATION**

DAFF does not place any restrictions on the airline chosen. However, the dog must travel as "Manifested Cargo" (not in the cabin) unless permission is given otherwise (mainly for assistance dogs where the dog and handler must travel to Australia on the same flight and the assistance dog may travel with its handler in the cabin). If your dog is travelling as manifested cargo, he/she must be contained in an International Air Transport Association (IATA) approved crate for cats and dogs.

IATA guidelines can be viewed at: [www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live\\_animals/pets.htm](http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live_animals/pets.htm)

Strict compliance with crate specifications is vital for the safe and secure transport of the animal. Problems will occur if the animal can escape from its crate or if any part of its body (nose, limbs, or tail) can protrude.

For the wellbeing of the dog, DAFF strongly advises booking direct flights to prevent mishaps occurring, e.g. animals missing connecting flights and remaining in airports for extended periods of time.

17. **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](mailto:WIT@apha.gov.uk)

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

18. **POST ARRIVAL QUARANTINE**

On arrival in Australia the dog will be transported direct to the approved quarantine station.

Each dog imported under these conditions will be required to serve a period of **at least 10 days** quarantine in an approved animal quarantine station after arrival.

19. **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](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)

## ANNEX A

### Preparation for 10-day post export quarantine (PEQ) eligibility

A new process has been agreed between DEFRA and The Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

In order for a pet to be eligible for the minimum 10 days' quarantine, export preparation in relation to rabies requirements, pet identity checks and export health certification work will need to be carried out by veterinarians who are authorised by APHA as an OV under either the OCQ(V) - SX or OCQ(V) - CA. In addition, these OVs will need to have an additional authorisation from APHA that is specific for export of dogs and cats to Australia - OV66 authorisation.

All of the following will need to be carried out by OV66 authorised OVs in order for the animal to be potentially eligible:

- o **Animal Identification (ID) checks** - two identification checks will be required by different OVs from different practices that are not associated. (They can be from two different practices within the same corporate practice group.) Each OV must complete a separate ID declaration and email it to DAFF from their own email address registered with their OV66 authorisation. (this must be a personal email address not a general practice or group email address)
- o **Rabies Neutralising Antibody Titre Test (RNATT) blood sampling** (this can be done at the same date as second identity check or afterwards)
- o **RNATT Declaration**
- o **Export Health Certification (EHC) certification**

**It is important to note that animal will only be deemed eligible for 10 days PEQ, by DAFF, if all of the requirements are met.**

In summary, the whole preparation process includes:

- a) **Rabies vaccination and certificate (which may be before or after 1<sup>st</sup> ID verification)**
- b) **1<sup>st</sup> ID verification + ID declaration**
- c) **2<sup>nd</sup> ID verification + ID declaration**
- d) **RNATT blood sampling + laboratory submission form**
- e) **RNATT laboratory report**
- f) **RNATT declaration**
- g) **Other tests & treatments (as required per EHC)**
- h) **Export health certification**

Please note: An animal's microchip must be scanned and verified **every** time it is tested, treated or examined prior to export.

Details of each step in the process

#### **a) Rabies vaccination and the certificate**

- May be undertaken by any MRCVS veterinarian
- Microchip must be read & recorded by MRCVS at time of vaccination
- Animal must be vaccinated against rabies with a government approved inactivated rabies virus vaccine when at least 12 weeks old (84 days old)
- In a case of primary vaccination, it is recommended that at least four (4) weeks elapse between the rabies vaccination and blood sampling. This will enable the animal to produce sufficient antibodies to record a positive test result.
- In this context, "government approved vaccine" means a vaccine with a current marketing authorisation for use in dogs or cats. If the vaccination has been carried out in another country, and the animal was



legally imported into the UK, then the vaccine can be considered to be government approved

- Copy of the Rabies certificate is required

**b) 1<sup>st</sup> ID verification + ID declaration**

- Must be undertaken by OV66(1)
- Must be done before RNATT blood sampling and between 180 days - 365 days (12 months) prior to export.
- Declaration must be emailed to DAFF by OV66(1) from their registered email address.

**c) 2<sup>nd</sup> ID verification+ ID declaration**

- Must be undertaken by OV66(2)
- OV66(2) must be different to OV66(1) and working for a different veterinary practice.
- Must be done between 180 days - 365 days (12 months) prior to export.
- Can be done on the same day as RNATT blood sampling but 2nd ID verification must be completed prior to blood sampling.
- Declaration must be emailed to DAFF by OV66(2) from their registered email address.
- The date of second ID check is considered the verification date and blood collection must be done on or after the second ID check

**For both b) and c) - blank copy of ID declaration form can be found here:**

<https://www.improve-ov.com/instructions/>

**As a part of ID declaration, the following is required:**

- Two separate identification declarations must be conducted and submitted by two different official veterinarians - OV 66(1) and OV 66(2), who do not work at the same practice.
  - The OV66(2) signing the latter of the two declarations may also collect blood for the rabies neutralising antibody titre test (RNATT) on the same day as the identity verification.
  - DAFF will consider the date of the identification verification to be the date the second OV completes the identity verification.
- When completed, this document and the colour photograph must be forwarded to DAFF at [catdogidcheck@aff.gov.au](mailto:catdogidcheck@aff.gov.au) by each OV.
  - DAFF will only accept declarations from OVs that have current training and authorisation to prepare companion animals for export and that have been included in the APHA/DAERA approved list of OVs for export certification of pets to Australia - OV66 authorisation.
  - DAFF will only accept declarations that come directly from the OV's email address provided to Defra/DAERA as part of their OV66 authorisation. . DAFF will not accept identification declarations from any other source.
  - The email must include the following information in the subject line: Importer surname, importer first name, animal name, microchip number, country of export (e.g. Smith, John, Spot 123456789, United Kingdom).
  - All pages must be signed, stamped and dated by the completing OV.
  - DAFF will send an automatic email which confirms receipt of the email.
- **OVs must also take a colour photograph of the animal at microchip scanning which includes both a legible microchip number on the scanner and**

distinguishing features of the animal. The photograph must be emailed with the declaration.

Sample photos of acceptable and non-acceptable ID check images for reference can be found here: [ET261 Guidance on ID check photographs for export of dogs and cats to Australia](#)

- **OVs must check that the microchip number is registered on a UK database which is UK government approved. The details of the owner listed on the database must be consistent with the owner details provided by the exporter.**
  - The list of UK government approved databases are available on gov.uk: [Get your dog or cat microchipped - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
  - OVs might need to request any necessary details from the owner of the animal, such as what database is animal registered on, copy of the current database registration (snip, email confirmation) etc, which will enable OV to keep the necessary records and verify this information themselves.
  - The OV must keep records of this identity verification such as copies of the documentation, database record and standard veterinary consultation records. DAFF may request these if further information is required or as part of our standard verification.

Please note, that DAFF operational team will follow the established process for assessing ID declarations as follow:

- A DAFF officer will process the ID declaration as they are received. If an ID declaration is not accepted, the OV will be notified within 2 business days of submission to DAFF. DAFF will not provide confirmation of acceptance for each ID declaration due to high volume received. The OV66 will only receive an automated response confirming that the ID declaration has been received and will be assessed.
- If an OV66 submits an unacceptable photo with the ID declaration, a DAFF officer will request a new photo of the animal. This photo must clearly show the animal with a microchip scanner indicating the microchip number. If the new photo meets DAFF standards, the ID declaration will remain valid. However, if the new photo is also unacceptable, the ID declaration will no longer be valid. In this case, the animal will only be eligible to a 30-day PEQ, unless a further acceptable ID declaration is submitted. The RNATT sampling will need to be repeated if a further ID declaration is required. Therefore, there is a risk associated with RNATT sampling done on the same day as the second ID check if there is any doubt about ID photos.
- **An import permit granted by DAFF, following receipt of the ID declarations and all other documentation as required from the exporter, will state whether the animal is eligible for the minimum 10-day or 30-day post-entry quarantine period. This document can then be provided to the OV certifying the EHC as evidence that the animal in question should be eligible for 10-day quarantine, subject to all other requirements being met.**

d) **Blood sample for RNATT test + laboratory submission form**

- Must be undertaken by OV66 -authorised OV
- Must be done between 180 days -365 days (12 months) prior to export.
- Can be done on the same day as second ID verification and declaration, but 2<sup>nd</sup> ID verification and declaration must be completed prior to blood sampling.

- Sample must be tested at approved laboratory.

e) **RNATT laboratory report required**

- It must include animal`s microchip number, blood sampling date and result greater than 0.5 IU/ml.

f) **RNATT declaration**

- Blank copy of the UK RNATT declaration can be found here:  
<https://www.improve-ov.com/instructions/>
- Must be completed by OV66-authorized OV (different to the OV66-authorized OV who carried out the blood sampling).
- Copy of the RNATT laboratory report and Rabies vaccination certificates are required to complete RNATT declaration.
- RNATT declaration must be submitted in the application form to import the animal to Australia.

g) **Other tests & treatments** (as required per EHC)

- May be undertaken by any MRCVS veterinarian as long as the pets` microchip is verified each time.
- For more information on these please refer to Notes for Guidance accompanying the EHC

h) **Export health certification**

- Must be completed by OV66-authorized OV (different to the OV66-authorized OV who carried out the blood sampling), in accordance with principles of certification.
- Laboratory reports and declarations are endorsed by certifying OV66-authorized OV and attached to the Export Health Certificate (EHC) (fan stamped).

## **ANNEX B**

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANIMALS BEING PARTIALLY PREPARED IN DAFF - APPROVED COUNTRY OUTSIDE OF UK.**

Animals prepared under this option might still be eligible for 10 days PEQ. This approach should allow the UK to facilitate export of the small number of animals that have some of their early preparation completed in approved countries outside the UK.

**OV to follow instructions under Annex A or Annex C as appropriate depending on the duration of post-entry quarantine noted on the import permit.**

To note:

- If an import permit has already been issued in another country, the ID declaration, blood sampling and RNATT declaration may not need to be repeated in GB. OVs/exporters may need to check with DAFF that this existing documentation is acceptable. DAFF have confirmed the following:
  - Animals that have their RNATT declaration prepared in another approved country but are later moved to the UK and intended to be exported from the UK to Australia do not require a repeated RNATT declaration in the UK; they can be exported with the foreign / original RNATT declaration.
  - Documents that relate to activities carried out in other countries (such as the RNATT declaration or laboratory reports) do not need to be endorsed by the UK OVs, instead they can be fan stamped and attached with the export health certificate.

## **ANNEX C**

### **Preparation for 30-days PEQ eligibility**

This preparation can be undertaken by any OV's who are authorised under the relevant OCQ for pet exports, and they don't need specific OV66 authorisation. However, if an OV66-authorized OV does not carry out the procedures as specified above, the minimum PEQ will be 30 days.

No specific ID declaration will be required, however please note: An animal's microchip must be scanned and verified every time it is tested, treated or examined prior to export.

In summary, the preparation process for this option includes:

**a. Rabies vaccination and certificate** - by any MRCVS veterinarian

**b. RNATT blood sampling + laboratory submission form**

- Must be undertaken by OV.
- Must be between 180 days - 365 days (12 months) prior to export.
- Sample must be tested at approved laboratory.

**c. RNATT laboratory report**

- Must include animal's microchip number, blood sampling date and result greater than 0.5 IU/ml.

**d. RNATT declaration**

- Blank copy of the UK RNATT declaration can be found here: <https://www.improve-ov.com/instructions/>
- Must be completed by OV (different to the OV who carried out the blood sampling).
- Copy of the RNATT laboratory report and Rabies vaccination certificates are required to complete RNATT declaration.
- RNATT declaration must be submitted in the application form to import animal to Australia.

**e. Other tests & treatments (as required per EHC)**

- May be undertaken by MRCVS veterinarian as long as the pet's microchip is verified each time.
- For more information on these please refer to Notes for Guidance accompanying the EHC

**f. Export health certification**

- Must be completed by an OV (different to the OV who carried out the blood sampling), in accordance with principles of certification.
- Laboratory reports and declarations are endorsed by the certifying OV and attached to the Export Health Certificate (EHC) (fan stamped).