INSTRUCTIONS

Importation of dogs to Iceland

Import permit

Importers must apply for an import permit to The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST). Application form is on the MAST website, www.mast.is. Once MAST has received an application, the applicant will be sent a notification and a request to pay a permit fee of ISK 37,400 (which also is payment for importation checks). Upon receiving payment confirmation, an import permit will be issued and sent to the applicant along with all necessary information. The European pet passport is not sufficient for importation of dogs to Iceland. Temperament evaluation is required for some breeds of dogs (details below).

Importation costs

The importer is responsible for the payment of importation costs.
1) Permit fee (MAST, ISK 37,400)
2) Quarantine cost (contact the quarantine stations for information).
3) Veterinary costs for importation preparation in the country of export (vaccinations, tests etc.)

Quarantine

All imported dogs are required to stay in quarantine for 4 weeks. The importer must make a reservation for the animal at the quarantine facility. Currently, there are two approved quarantine stations in Iceland, Einangrunarstöðin í Reykjanesbæ (Hafnir) and Mósel (Hella). Pets are admitted during a set three-day period each month. For further information on admission dates, fees and other practical matters, contact the quarantine station. Please make your reservation well in advance as there might be a waiting list.

Airport of entry and approved arrival hours

Keflavik airport (KEF) is the only approved port of entry for pets. The permitted hours for pets at Keflavik are between 05:00 and 17:00 on the quarantine admission days. For arrival outside these specified hours an application must be sent to MAST at least one week in advance. If approved, the arrival of a pet outside of the permitted hours might result in considerable additional costs payable by the importer in relation to inspection and supervision.

Transport crate

Provide a transport crate for the dog. The crate should be big enough so that the dog can stand, lie and turn around. The crate should be of a material easy to clean and disinfect. Soft carriers are not acceptable. If the crate cannot be cleaned and disinfected it will be destroyed after importation.

Minimum age for imported dogs

The minimum age for imported dogs is 7 months (204 days). However dogs that are imported from rabies-free countries can be imported at the age of 5 months. MAST considers the following countries to be rabies-free: Australia, Great-Britain, Finland, Faroe Islands, Hawaii, Ireland, Japan, Norway (Svalbard not included), New-Zealand and Sweden. However, if the dog is of such a breed that requires a temperament evaluation, the minimum age for importation is 6 months, as the evaluation cannot be performed until the dog reaches 6 months age.

Health requirements for import

All health requirements (take note of time limits) for import must be fulfilled (details on page 2-3). A scanned copy of the Certificate of Health and Origin for Import of a Dog to Iceland along with rabies antibody titre test report must be sent to MAST at least 5 days before importation for approval. Original documents in addition to the import permit must accompany the dog to Iceland (in an envelope securely taped to the cage).
Non-allowed importation

It is not permitted to import pregnant or nursing bitches nor dogs that have undergone surgery prior to importation and require treatment of any kind. Dogs of the following breeds or mixtures thereof are not permitted: **Pit bull terrier / staffordshire bull terrier, Fila brasileiro, Toso inu, Dogo argentino nor wolf mixes.** Furthermore MAST can ban the importation of other breeds if they are considered at risk of being dangerous.

Temperament evaluation

According to Icelandic animal importation legislation, the importation of potentially dangerous pets shall be avoided. Therefore, a temperament evaluation is required for dogs of certain breeds. Those are dogs that because of their size and strength can cause considerable damage if they are aggressive. A request for a temperament evaluation is sent to applicants when appropriate.

Illegal importation

Dogs that do not fulfill the conditions of importation will not be allowed to enter Iceland. They will be returned to the country of export or euthanised at the expense of the importer.

Legal background

The Importation of Animals Act no. 54/1990 and Regulation no. 935/2004 on the Importation of Pets (Companion Animals) and Dog Semen apply to importation of pets to Iceland.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Certificate of Health and Origin for Import of a Dog to Iceland

Only the form issued by MAST is valid for this purpose. Parts 1-8 of the certificate must be fully completed. The name of the importer (identified in part 1) shall correspond to the importer's name on the import permit.

At least 5 days before the date of importation a scanned copy of the certificate and the rabies antibody test report must be e-mailed to MAST (petimport@mast.is) for pre-approval.

At the time of import the following documents must accompany the dog

1) the original Certificate of Health and Origin for Import of a dog to Iceland;
2) the original rabies antibody titre test report;
3) the import permit issued by MAST (a copy is sufficient)
   An invoice for the purchase of the dog is required by customs if the importer has had the dog for less than 12 months.

Microchip

The dog must have a microchip (ISO standard). The microchip must be applied before the dog is vaccinated and samples are taken for the purpose of importation.

Vaccinations

a) Rabies (vaccination and antibody titre test)
   - The dog must have been vaccinated against rabies with a killed vaccine no more than **365 days** before importation.
   - The dog must be at least **12 weeks** old at the time of the primary vaccination.
   - As a confirmation of a successful vaccination, the dog must have a rabies antibody titre blood test at least **30 days** after the primary rabies vaccination (or a valid revaccination).
- The blood test must be performed at a laboratory approved by the EU and have a result of antibody levels at a minimum of 0.5 IU/ml. EU approved laboratories: (hyperlink on MAST website)

- At least 120 days must pass from the date of the primary rabies vaccination before the dog is authorised for importation to Iceland (following a successful antibody titre test). In case of a valid revaccination (and a successful antibody titre test) the dog may be imported 30 days after the last rabies revaccination.

- Rabies free countries: If the dog has spent at least the last 6 months prior to arrival in Iceland in a rabies-free country, then rabies vaccination and blood testing are not a requirement for import into Iceland. MAST considers the following countries to be rabies free: Australia, Faroe Islands, Finland, Hawaii, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom.

b) Leptospirosis spp.
- The dog must have been fully vaccinated* against *Leptospirosis* spp. no more than 180 days and no less than 30 days before importation to Iceland.

c) Canine distemper
- The dog must have been fully vaccinated* against canine distemper no more than 365 days and no less than 30 days before importation to Iceland.

d) Contagious hepatitis
- The dog must have been fully vaccinated* against contagious hepatitis no more than 365 days and no less than 30 days before importation to Iceland.

e) Parvovirus
- The dog must have been fully vaccinated* against parvovirus no more than 365 days and no less than 30 days before importation to Iceland.

*vaccinated according to the specific guidelines for each vaccine regarding the age of the dog when vaccinated and the numbers of vaccination needed to give the full protection of the vaccine. If the primary vaccination requires a booster (a follow up) vaccination, the dog is not considered fully vaccinated until it has been given the booster vaccine within a set timeframe.

### Laboratory tests (other than rabies antibody titre test) (no more than 30 days before importation)

a) Brucella canis
- The dog must be tested serologically for *Brucella canis* with a negative result. The blood sample must be drawn no more than 30 days before importation to Iceland.

b) Salmonella spp.
- The dog must be tested for *Salmonella* spp. (fecal sample) with a negative result. The sample must be taken no more than 30 days before importation to Iceland.

### Health examination and parasite treatment (no more than 10 days before importation)

a) Health examination
- Between 5-10 days before importation to Iceland the dog shall be examined by an authorised veterinarian and must not show any signs of contagious disease.

b) Tapeworm treatment
- Between 5-10 days before importation to Iceland the dog shall be treated for tapeworm (*Echinococcus multilocularis* and *Echinococcus granulosus*) with an approved veterinary medicinal product.

c) External parasite treatment
- Between 5-10 days before importation to Iceland the dog shall be treated for external parasites (including ear mites, if indicated) with an an approved veterinary medicinal product.