

*Applies to pet rabbits and the following pet rodents: guinea pigs, hamsters, mice and degu

Import permit

Importers must apply for an import permit to The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST). Application form is on the MAST website. Once MAST has received an application, arrangement will be made for a veterinary officer to inspect home quarantine premises. After the inspection the applicant will be sent a notification and a request to pay a permit fee of ISK 9.350. Upon receiving payment confirmation, an import permit will be issued and sent to the applicant along with all necessary information. The pet will be examined by a veterinary officer during the home quarantine period at least on two occasions; as soon as possible after arrival and at the end of the quarantine period and more often if needed (in the event of illness or injury).

Importation costs: The importer is responsible for the payment of importation costs.

- 1) Permit fee (MAST, ISK 9.350).
- 2) Fees for inspection during home quarantine.
- 3) Veterinary costs for importation preparation in country of export.

Health requirements for import

All health requirements (take note of time limits) for import must be fulfilled. An authorised veterinarian in the country of export shall issue the certificate of health and origin for import (details on page 2).

Home quarantine for 4 weeks

Pet rabbits and rodents for which a MAST import permit has been issued must be quarantined at home for four weeks upon arrival in Iceland. They must be taken directly from the airport to the home quarantine.

- The pet shall be kept in a separate space where there is limited traffic.
- One family member shall be assigned to taking care of the quarantined pet.
- No other animals can stay or visit the premises during the home quarantine period.
- Pets in quarantine cannot have any contact with other animals.
- The person taking care of pets in home quarantine must take precautions regarding cleanliness and sanitation when dealing with the pets. This includes washing and disinfecting hands after handling the pets and their waste.
- Feces and other waste shall be enclosed in a double layer of plastic bags before being trashed.
- In the event of illness or injury of the pets during home quarantine period, MAST must be notified as soon as possible. The quarantine period might be prolonged and/or samples taken for diagnosis. Do not take the pets to a veterinary clinic without consulting with MAST first. In the event of death of the pet, it must be autopsied.

Quarantine at pet shops for 4 weeks

In the case of importation of pet rabbits/rodents by a pet shop the following requirements apply to quarantine facilities:

- The pets shall be kept in a separate room where there is limited traffic.
- One staff member shall be assigned to taking care of the quarantined pets and have access to the quarantine facilities.
- Pets in quarantine cannot have any contact with other animals.
- The person taking care of the quarantined pets must use protective clothing and take precautions regarding cleanliness and sanitation when dealing with the pets. This includes washing and disinfecting hands after handling the pets and their waste.
- Feces and other waste shall be enclosed in a double layer of plastic bags before being trashed.

- In the event of illness or injury of the pets during the home quarantine period, MAST must be notified as soon as possible. The quarantine period might be prolonged and/or samples taken for diagnosis. Do not take the pets to a veterinary clinic without consulting with MAST. In the event of death of the pet, it must be autopsied.

Airport of entry – transport cages

Keflavik airport (KEF) is the only approved port of entry for pets. Import permit and certificate of health and origin for import of a pet rabbit/rodent to Iceland must be presented to customs at arrival. The transport cage must be robust and of a material easy to clean and disinfect (soft carriers are not acceptable). The size of the cage must be appropriate for the pet and ventilation holes may not be large enough for any body parts to get stuck.

Illegal importation

Pet rabbits or rodents 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 Pet Rabbit/Rodent to Iceland

Only the form issued by MAST is valid for this purpose. By completing and signing the certificate of health and origin for import of a pet rabbit/rodent to Iceland, the veterinarian confirms the following:

- Information on the importer (the import permit holder).
- Information on the pet; breed and identification, rabbits must be microchipped.
- The pet shall not show any signs of infectious disease.
- Fecal samples taken no more than 3 weeks before importation shall be tested for *Salmonella* spp. with a negative result. The test shall be performed at an authorised laboratory.

At least 5 days before the date of importation a scanned copy of the certificate (both pages) and the salmonella 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 pet: 1) the original Certificate of Health and Origin for Import of a Rabbit/Rodent to Iceland; 2) the original salmonella test report; 3) the import permit issued by MAST.