

Importation of dogs / cats of Ukrainian refugees

A special exemption applies to the import of dogs and cats owned by refugees from Ukraine according to [regulation no. 590/2022 on the importation of dogs and cats from Ukraine](#). The exemption allows refugees from Ukraine to bring their pets to Iceland, even if they do not fulfill the health requirements for standard importation according to regulation no. 200/2020 at the time of importation. **However, all health requirements must be met after arrival to Iceland and the animals must stay in quarantine for up to four months during the process.** These include vaccinations, sampling and treatment of parasites.

- This exemption only applies to dogs and cats owned by refugees from Ukraine who have applied (or will apply) for collective protection in Iceland.
- All dogs and cats from Ukraine must be quarantined at a quarantine station, up to four months, but the length of stay in quarantine depends on the health conditions of the pet, i.e. what vaccinations, laboratory tests and treatment it has received prior to arrival.
- Importers must apply to MAST for an import permit before the animal is brought to Iceland.
- MAST will allocate a space at the quarantine station as soon as possible.

Application for an import permit

As there is a limited number of kennels at the quarantine station, importers must apply for a permit before the pet is brought to Iceland.

A completed application form (DCU) must be sent to petimport@mast.is. The application must be accompanied by available documents on the animal's health, such as a veterinarian's certificate or vaccination booklet or an EU passport, which contains information on the animal's identification, vaccination, etc. A photo (or photos) of the pet must also be submitted.

Following the evaluation of the application, a plan is made for how long the animals should stay in quarantine and what veterinary procedures shall take place and when.

Quarantine

The quarantine center for pets owned by refugees from Ukraine is located at Leirur, Kjalarnes.

MAST allocates places in quarantine. When determining the length of stay in quarantine it is taken into account what health conditions the pet has fulfilled on arrival to Iceland. During quarantine the pet undergoes the necessary vaccinations, sampling and treatment until it meets all health requirements. The minimum quarantine is 14 days, but it can take up to 120 days for pets to meet all health requirements. Quarantine can therefore be expected to reach up to 4 months. In the event of an unexpected infection at the station, quarantine may need to be prolonged.

Each pet has its own kennel with outdoor access every day. Cats that are accustomed to outdoor activities are allowed in the outdoor cage when negative parasitic analysis results have been confirmed. Trained staff

take care of the animals monitoring their health and welfare and provide them with entertainment. The quarantine veterinarian examines all pets at the beginning of quarantine and at regular intervals and is always available if necessary.

When the pet has stayed at the quarantine station for at least 3 weeks, weekly visits may be arranged. Any visit must be scheduled in advance and in consultation with the station's staff.

Health requirements

The pet must fulfill all of the following health requirements, either before or after their arrival in Iceland. Animals which have not met all of the health requirements upon arrival, will remain in quarantine until the process is completed. This can take up to 120 days.

Health requirements for dogs

- Microchip
- Rabies vaccination (when the dog is at least 12 weeks old)
- Rabies antibody test, taken at the earliest 30 days after vaccination, measuring at least 0,5 IU/ml. Antibody testing shall be carried out by a EU approved laboratory.
- Requirements for rabies are fulfilled when at least 90 days (3 months) have passed after the date of the blood sampling for an antibody test with a satisfactory result ($\geq 0,5\text{IU/ml}$).
- Vaccination against Leptospirosis, Canine distemper, Infectious canine hepatitis, Canine parvovirus, Canine parainfluenza vaccinations.
- Laboratory test / blood sample for *Brucella canis* with a negative result.
- Laboratory test / blood sample for *Leishmania* spp. with a negative result. This applies only to intact dogs (males and females). In case of a positive test result, the dog must be surgically neutered/spayed to be approved for import. The operation may be performed after release from quarantine but must be verified within one month of release.
- Two treatments, 14 days apart against internal and external parasites. The veterinary medicinal product(s) used for external parasites must be registered for lice, fleas and ticks. The veterinary medicinal product(s) used for internal parasites must be registered for roundworm and tapeworm.
- Health examination: The veterinarian must confirm that the dog does not show any symptoms of contagious diseases or external parasites. Special attention must be paid to tongue worm (*Linguata serrata*), scabies (*Sarcoptes scabiei* spp.), dermatophytosis (*M. Canis*, *M. Gypseum*, *T. Mentagrophytes*, *T. Verrucosum*) and canine transmissible venereal tumors (CTVT).

Health requirements for cats

- Microchip
- Rabies vaccination (when the cat is at least 12 weeks old)
- Rabies antibody test, taken at the earliest 30 days after vaccination, measuring at least 0,5 IU/ml. Antibody testing shall be carried out by a EU approved laboratory.
- Requirements for rabies are fulfilled when at least 90 days (3 months) have passed after the date of the blood sampling for an antibody test with a satisfactory result ($\geq 0,5\text{IU/ml}$).
- Vaccination against Feline panleukopenia, Feline rhinotracheitis, *Calicivirus*.
- Laboratory test / blood sample for *Feline leukemia virus* (FeLV) with a negative result.
- Laboratory test / blood sample for *Feline immunodeficiency virus* (FIV) with a negative result.

- Two treatments, 14 days apart against internal and external parasites. The veterinary medicinal product(s) used for external parasites must be registered for lice, fleas and ticks. The veterinary medicinal product(s) used for internal parasites must be registered for roundworm and tapeworm.
- Health examination: The veterinarian must confirm that the dog does not show any symptoms of contagious diseases or external parasites. Special attention must be paid to tongue worm (*Linguata serrata*), scabies (*Sarcoptes scabiei* spp.), dermatophytosis (*M. Canis*, *M. Gypseum*, *T. Mentagrophytes*, *T. Verrucosum*).

Examples of the length of quarantine, depending on what health requirements have been fulfilled on arrival to Iceland:

Example 1

- All health requirements fulfilled („standard“ importation according to regulation no. 200/2020)
- Quarantine: 14 days.

Example 2

- All health requirements fulfilled except for the full 90 day period after the date of the blood sampling for an antibody test with a satisfactory result.
- Quarantine until 90 days have passed since the date of the blood sampling for an antibody test with a satisfactory result.

Example 3

- The pet is microchipped and has a valid rabies vaccine, other requirements not fulfilled.
- Quarantine: 90-120 days depending on when the dog was vaccinated against rabies.

Example 4

- The pet is not microchipped nor vaccinated against rabies prior to arrival (the pet must be microchipped prior to vaccination). No other requirements fulfilled.
- Quarantine: 90-120 days.

Import inspection and transportation to quarantine station.

Upon arrival at Keflavík airport, the dog / cat is transported to the pet reception center (within the airport) where import inspection takes place. This inspection includes a veterinary health examination and document check. After the inspection the pet is collected by an approved carrier who transports it to the quarantine station.