

IMPORTATION OF CATS FROM RABIES FREE COUNTRIES

The following instructions apply to the importation of cats to Iceland from approved rabies free countries (category 1 countries). Refer to bottom of page 6 for a list of category 1 countries.

- The importer must have obtained an import permit issued by the Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST) before the cat is imported.
- The cat must comply with **all** import conditions. The importer is responsible for fulfilling the conditions.
- Failure to comply with the import conditions may result in the cat being exported or euthanised.
- An authorised veterinarian in the country of export must perform all veterinary procedures.
- Only certificate form **C1** issued by MAST is valid for this purpose.
- The signed certificate with official endorsement must be sent to MAST 5-10 days prior to import for approval.
- If the required documentation is received by MAST later than 5 days prior to the scheduled date of arrival, the importation of the animal may be rejected.
- These guidelines are based on [Regulation no. 200/2020 on the import of cats and cats](#)

SUMMARY OF IMPORT CONDITIONS

Detailed instructions on p. 2-6

FIRST STEPS

1. Obtain information on the import conditions; approved exporting countries and authorized cat breeds.
2. Contact your veterinarian and plan the import preparations. Contact the veterinary authorities in the exporting country regarding endorsement of the Certificate of Health and Origin (**C1**).
3. Implantation or reading of microchip.
4. Apply for an import permit.
5. Make reservations for quarantine.

NO LATER THAN 40-60 DAYS PRIOR TO IMPORT

6. Vaccination and antibody testing for rabies.

NO LATER THAN 6 WEEKS PRIOR TO IMPORT

7. Vaccination for Feline panleukopenia, Feline rhinotracheitis and Feline calicivirus

WHEN THE DATE OF IMPORTATION HAS BEEN SCHEDULED

8. Make transport arrangements.

WITHIN 30 DAYS PRIOR TO IMPORTATION (21-28 DAYS PRIOR PREFERABLY)

9. Sampling and testing for Feline leukemia virus (FeLV).
10. Sampling and testing for Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV).

BETWEEN 28 AND 21 DAYS PRIOR TO IMPORTATION

11. First parasite treatment (1 of 2) against internal and external parasites.

BETWEEN 10 AND 5 DAYS PRIOR TO IMPORTATION

12. Second parasite treatment (1 of 2) against internal and external parasites.
13. Health examination prior to importation and completion of Certificate of Health and Origin.
14. Endorsement by official veterinarian on behalf of competent authority.
15. Certificate of Health and Origin (**C1**) (scanned copy) sent to MAST for pre-approval.

IMPORTATION DAY

16. Transport to Iceland.
17. Border control and transport to the quarantine station.

<p>1. Obtain information on import conditions and approved exporting countries. When: before starting the import process.</p>
<p>a) It is necessary to familiarize yourself with the import conditions and these guidelines before deciding when the cat will be imported. It is helpful to print the certificate form (C1) and have a good look at it.</p> <p>b) It shall be ascertained whether the exporting country is recognized as an approved exporting country and to which category it belongs (category 1 or 2). The cat must have remained in an approved category 1 country from birth or the last 6 months prior to importation.</p>
<p>2. Contact your veterinarian to discuss and plan the import preparations. Contact the veterinary authorities in the exporting country. When: before pre-import vaccination, testing or treatment.</p>
<p>a) It is recommended that the authorised veterinarian responsible for the pre-import vaccination, testing and treatment is given time to make arrangements for testing, vaccination and such.</p> <p>b) It is recommended to contact the veterinary authorities of the exporting country and enquire about the measures to be taken regarding endorsement of the Certificate of Health and Origin (C1) (see part 15).</p>
<p>3. Implantation or reading of microchip. When: before pre-import vaccination, testing or treatment.</p>
<p>a) The cat must have a ISO compliant microchip.</p> <p>b) The cat shall be microchipped before any vaccination or testing is carried out for import purposes.</p> <p>c) The microchip number shall be verified each time the cat is examined, tested or treated for import purposes.</p>
<p>4. Apply for an import permit. When: Applications must be submitted in time for import. Import permits are valid for one year.</p>
<p>a) Applicants with an Icelandic ID no, (kennitala) shall apply for an import permit on the MAST online portal. You can log on to the portal with an electronic ID or ICE key and complete all the requested information on application no. 2.15. Other applicants shall use the application form on the MAST website. A scanned copy of the signed application shall be sent to petimport@mast.is.</p> <p>b) It is preferable that the application be submitted to MAST at least 30 days prior to import.</p> <p>c) Necessary information for an import permit application: 1) Cat breed; b) country of export; c) microchip number; importers name, address and kennitala (when applicable).</p> <p>d) A permit fee in the amount of ISK 37.400 shall be paid. A payment request is sent to the applicant upon receipt of application by MAST. This fee covers administration as well as the import control on arrival to Keflavik airport and upon discharge of the cat from the quarantine station.</p> <p>e) Once payment has been received by the MAST, an import permit is issued.</p> <p>f) The number of the import permit shall be recorded on the Certificate of Health and Origin (C1).</p>
<p>5. Make reservations for quarantine. When: Enough time in advance to allow for import preparation and assure availability.</p>
<p>a) Imported cats are required to stay in quarantine for a minimum of 14 days.</p> <p>b) The importer shall make reservations at a quarantine station. There are two approved quarantine stations for dogs and cats in Iceland.:</p> <p>1) The quarantine station in Reykjanesbær (Hafnir) www.einangrun.is Tel. +354 4216949 / 8936949</p> <p>2) Mósel quarantine station (Hella) – www.allirhundar.is – Tel. +354 8923457</p> <p>c) Pets are admitted by each quarantine station within a set 3 day period approximately three weeks apart. Quarantine admission (check-in) dates can be found on the relevant station's website.</p> <p>d) Deadlines for the completion and submission of the Certificate of Health and Origin must be taken into account when determining the import date.</p> <p>e) In the case of a suspected infectious disease in a quarantined animal, MAST may extend the period of quarantine for the animal concerned, or all animals at the station, depending on the nature of the infectious agent.</p>

<p>6. Rabies - vaccination and antibody testing. When: no later than 40-60 days (vaccination) and 10-20 days (antibody titer test) prior to importation.</p> <p>a) Cats must have a valid rabies vaccination, ie: they must have received the appropriate basic immunization and maintained according to the instructions from the manufacturer.</p> <p>b) The following details on the current vaccination must be recorded in the Certificate of Health and Origin; vaccine name, date of vaccination and expiry date.</p> <p>c) The vaccination must be valid when the antibody titer test is performed ie: antibody titer test can not be performed if the vaccination is out of date.</p> <p>d) Antibody titre testing is performed on a blood sample where antibodies against rabies are measured to determine if the vaccination was successful.</p> <p>e) Blood samples for antibody testing shall be taken at the earliest 30 days after vaccination.</p> <p>f) Antibody titre testing shall be carried out by a laboratory approved by the European Union for this purpose (https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/approved-labs_en).</p> <p>g) Rabies antibody titre should measure at least 0,5 IU/ml.</p> <p>h) The antibody test will be valid as long as the rabies vaccination is kept up to date according to the manufacturer's instructions.</p> <p>i) Results of the antibody titre test shall be recorded in the Certificate of Health and Origin (C1) and the original laboratory report must accompany the certificate.</p> <p>j) The antibody titre test report shall be in english and must contain the following information; laboratory name, microchip number, blood sampling date and result.</p>
<p>7. Vaccination for Feline panleukopenia, Feline rhinotracheitis and Feline calicivirus. When: Check the protocol at least 6 weeks before import.</p> <p>a) Cats must have a valid vaccination against the following diseases, ie. have received the appropriate basic vaccination and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">1) Feline panleukopenia 2) Feline rhinotracheitis 3) Feline calicivirus</p> <p>b) The last vaccination (1-5) must be carried out at least 14 days before importation.</p> <p>c) The following information from the last valid vaccination must be recorded in the Certificate of Health and Origin (C1); name of vaccine, date of vaccination and expiry date.</p>
<p>8. Make transport arrangements. When: In a timely manner and when the import date has been confirmed.</p> <p>a) When determining the the import date, take into account the deadlines in relations to the vaccinations and antibody.</p> <p>b) Cats may only be transported to Iceland by air.</p> <p>c) Keflavik airport is the only approved entry port for pets.</p> <p>d) If the cat requires to transit through another country prior to arriving in Iceland, it is the responsibility of the importer to comply to the import conditions applicable to the country in question.</p> <p>e) The flight number, day of arrival and estimated time of arrival, shall be recorded in the Certificate of Health and Origin (C1). In which way the cat will transported into the country (as cargo or luggage) shall also be recorded.</p>
<p>9. Sampling (blood sample) and testing for Feline leukemia virus (FeLV) When: within the last 30 days prior to importation</p> <p>a) It is recommended that sampling be done in a timely manner as a waiting period for results is expected. It is convenient to have this sampling carried out during the same veterinary visit as for the first parasite treatment (see section 13).</p> <p>b) Approved laboratory tests for FeLV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCR - ELISA - IFA - Test kits (in house) for FIV/FeLV based on accredited methods <p>c) The result must be negative.</p>

- a) Confirmation of a negative result shall be stated in the Certificate of Health and Origin (C1) and the laboratory report must accompany the certificate. In case of in-house testing, a laboratory report is not required but details of the test kit used and date of testing must be included.
- d) The laboratory report shall be in English and contain the following information: Laboratory name, microchip number, blood sampling date and test result.

**10. Sampling (blood sample) and testing for Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV)
When: within the last 30 days prior to importation.**

- b) It is recommended that the laboratory test be done in a timely manner, as a waiting period for results is expected. It is convenient to have this sampling carried out during the same veterinary visit as for the first parasite treatment (see section 13).
- c) Approved laboratory tests for FIV:
 - a. ELISA
 - b. Western blot
 - c. Test kits (in house) for FIV/FelV based on accredited methods
- d) The result must be negative.
- e) Confirmation of a negative result shall be stated in the Certificate of Health and Origin (C1) and the laboratory report must accompany the Certificate. In case of in-house testing, a laboratory report is not required but details of the test kit used and date of testing must be included.
- f) The laboratory report shall be in English and contain the following information: Laboratory name, microchip number, blood sampling date and test result.

**11. First parasites treatment against internal and external parasites.
When: 21-28 before import.**

- a) Treatment shall include:
 - 1) Internal parasites; roundworms, tapeworms and
 - 2) External parasites; lice, fleas and ticks.
- b) The following information on parasitic treatment must be recorded in the Certificate of Health and Origin (C1); name of drug, date and route of administration of the drug.

**12. Second parasites treatment against internal and external parasites.
When: 5-10 days before import.**

- a) Treatment shall include :
 - 1) Internal parasites; roundworms, tapeworms and
 - 2) External parasites; lice, fleas and ticks.
- b) The following information on parasitic treatment must be recorded in the Certificate of Health and Origin (C1); name of drug, date and route of administration of the drug.

**13. Health examination prior to importation and completion of Certificate of Health and Origin (C1).
When: 5-10 days before import.**

- a) Health examination: the veterinarian will confirm that the animal does not show any symptoms of contagious diseases or external parasites. Special attention made to tongue worm (*Linguata serrata*), scabies (*Sarcoptes scabiei spp.*), dermatophytosis (*M. Canis*, *M. Gypseum*, *T. Mentagrophytes*, *T. Verrucosum*).
- b) Certificate of Health and Origin for import of a cat
 - 1) Use the correct form, C1 - Certificate of health and origin for import of a cat to Iceland from a rabies free country (category 1 countries)
 - 2) The details of the importer and cat on the Certificate of Health and Origin must match the details on the import permit.
 - 3) All fields must be filled in, dated and signed where appropriate.

14. Endorsement by official veterinarian on behalf of competent authority. When: After the Certificate of Health and Origin (C1) has been issued by a veterinarian (item 14) and at least 5 days before importation.

The official veterinarian (veterinary officer), is a veterinarian who is employed by the veterinary authorities in the exporting country. The official veterinarian's role is to review the Certificate of Health and Origin and confirm that the information provided and the supporting documents are valid. It is recommended to contact the veterinary authorities in the exporting country in a timely manner, to make an appointment.

15. Certificate of Health and Origin (C1) (scanned copy) to be sent to MAST for import approval.**When: 5-10 days prior to import and after the certificate has been completed and endorsed (item 14 and 15)**

- a) A scanned copy of the Certificate of Health and Origin (C1) together with the relevant laboratory results, must be sent to MAST for review and approval.
- b) All documents must be sent as an attachment via email to petimport@mast.is
- c) A copy of the certificate must be received by MAST no later than 5 days before the scheduled date of arrival .
- d) If the documents are received later than 5 days prior to the scheduled date of arrival, MAST may refuse import.
- e) All import correspondence is dealt with during MAST business hours (weekdays only).
- f) If all paperwork is satisfactory, the Certificate of Health and Origin is signed by MAST and a notification of approval sent to the importer.

16. Transport to Iceland - Importation day.

- a) Cats must be transported in a cage large enough to be able to stand, lie down and turn around. The cage could be made of hard, non-collapsible material which is easy to clean and disinfect. If the cage cannot be cleaned and disinfected, it will be disposed after importation. Soft cages or cat bags are not allowed. Further requirements for pet carriers are provided in Regulation no. 80/2016 on the welfare of pets.
- b) Permitted time for arrival of animals at Keflavik airport is between 06:00 and 17:00 on the quarantine admission dates. It is possible to apply directly to MAST for permission for arrival outside of these specified hours, but such permission is not guaranteed. This will result in considerable additional costs payable by the importer, in relation to inspection and supervision, since import control will then be carried out outside normal working hours.
- c) The following documentation must accompany the cat to Iceland (inside an envelope attached to the cage)
 - 1) Import permit (can be a copy)
 - 2) Original Certificate of Health and Origin (C1).
 - 3) Original (or certified copy) laboratory report for rabies antibody titre test.
 - 4) Original (or certified copy) laboratory report for other tests (*B.canis*, *Leishmania* spp. *A.vasorum* if applicable)
 - 5) Customs declaration. If the owner has owned the animal for less than 12 months, he/she must pay VAT on the purchase price of the animal upon importation. Immigrants are required to submit a customs report to the Director of customs, including a receipt containing the names and address of the seller and the buyer, the issue date of the receipt and when the sale took place. Payment must be made before the pet is released from quarantine. For information please contact Icelandair Cargo ehf. at tollskyrsla@icelandaircargo.is. If the owner has owned the animal for more than 12 months, he may need to provide supporting documentation.

17. Border control and transport to the quarantine station.

Upon arrival at Keflavik Airport, cats are transported directly to the pet reception center where the import inspection takes place. This inspection includes verifying the cats microchip number, that all required documentation is attached to the transport cage and that it does not show any obvious sign of infectious disease. If any issues arise during the inspection, the importer will be contacted by telephone. After the inspection is completed, the cats are transported to the relevant quarantine station by their own staff.

Illegal importation

- Pregnant or lactating queens.
- Cats that have been injured or recently undergone major surgery prior to importation and require special supervision or treatment of any kind, except with the permission of MAST.

If item a-e-5 applies to an imported cat, the import permit will be revoked.

Appendix I, Reg. 200/2020 on the importation of dogs and cats.

Category 1 countries: approved rabies-free exporting countries:

Austria	Czech Republic	Greece	Luxembourg	Slovenia
Australia	Denmark	Ireland	Malta	Spain
Belgium	Estonia	Italy	Netherlands	Sweden
Bulgaria	Finland	Japan	Norway <i>(excl. Svalbard)</i>	Switzerland
Croatia	France	Latvia	Portugal	The Faroe Islands
Cyprus	Germany	Liechtenstein	Slovakia	United Kingdom

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