IMPORTATION OF DOGS FROM COUNTRIES WHERE RABIES IS WELL CONTROLLED

The following instructions apply to the importation of dogs to Iceland from approved category 2 countries where rabies is well controlled: Canada, Greenland, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Singapore, Turkey, Thailand, USA.

- The importer must obtain an import permit issued by the Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST) before the dog is imported.
- The dog 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 dog being exported or euthanised.
- An authorised veterinarian in the country of export must perform all veterinary procedures.
- Only certificate form D2 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 dogs and cats.

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1. Obtain information on import conditions; approved exporting countries and authorized dog breeds. 
When: before the export process begins.

   a) It is necessary to familiarize yourself with the import conditions and these guidelines before deciding when the dog will be imported. It is helpful to print the certificate form (D2) and have a good look at it.
   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 dog must have remained in an approved exporting country from birth or the last 6 months prior to importation.
   c) Ensure that the dog breed is authorised for import to Iceland (see page 6).

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.

   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.
   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 (D2) (see part 15).

3. Implantation or reading of microchip.
   When: before pre-import vaccination, testing or treatment.

   a) The dog must have a ISO compliant microchip.
   b) The dog shall be microchipped before any vaccination or testing is carried out for import purposes.
   c) The microchip number shall be verified each time the dog is examined, tested or treated for import purposes.

4. Apply for an import permit.
   When: Applications must be submitted in time for import. Import permits are valid for one year.

   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.
   b) It is preferable that the application be submitted to MAST at least 30 days prior to import.
   c) Necessary information for an import permit application:
      1) Dog breed; b) country of export; c) microchip number; importers name, address and kennitala (when applicable).
   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 dog from the quarantine station.
   e) Once payment has been received by the MAST, an import permit is issued.
   f) The number of the import permit shall be recorded on the Certificate of Health and Origin (D2).

5. Make reservations for quarantine.
   When: Enough time in advance to allow for import preparation and assure availability.

   a) Imported dogs are required to stay in quarantine for a minimum of 14 days.
   b) The importer shall make reservations at a quarantine station. There are two approved quarantine stations for dogs and cats in Iceland.:
      1) The quarantine station in Reykjanessbaer (Hafnir) – www.einangrun.is – Tel. +354 421 6949 / 893 6949
      2) Mósel quarantine station (Hella) – www.allirhundar.is – Tel. +354 892 3457
   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.
   d) Deadlines for the completion and submission of the Certificate of Health and Origin (D2) must be taken into account when determining the import date.
   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.
6. Rabies - vaccination and antibody testing.
When: no later than 120 days (vaccination) and 90 days (antibody titer) prior to importation.

a) Dogs must have a valid rabies vaccination, ie: they must have received the appropriate basic immunization and maintained according to the instructions from the manufacturer.
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.
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.
d) Antibody titre testing is performed on a blood sample where antibodies against rabies are measured to determine if the vaccination was successful.
e) Blood samples for antibody testing shall be taken at the earliest 30 days after vaccination.
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).
g) Rabies antibody titre should measure at least 0,5 IU/ml.
h) The dog may be imported to Iceland 90 days (3 months) after the date of the blood sampling for an antibody titre test with a satisfactory result.
i) The antibody test will be valid as long as the rabies vaccination is kept up to date according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
j) Results of the antibody titre test shall be recorded in the Certificate of Health and Origin (D2) and the original laboratory report must accompany the certificate.
k) The antibody titre test report shall be in english and must contain the following information; laboratory name, microchip number, blood sampling date and result.

7. Canine Influenza – Vaccination. Applies only to dogs imported from USA, Canada and Singapore.
When: Check the protocol at least 6 weeks before import.

a) Dogs imported from the United States, Canada or Singapore must have a valid and up to date canine influenza vaccination according to the instructions from the manufacturer.
b) The last vaccination against canine influenza must be carried out at least 14 days before importation.
c) The following information from the last valid vaccination must be recorded in the Certificate of Health and Origin (D2); name of vaccine, date of vaccination and expiry date.

8. Leptospirosis, Canine distemper, Infectious canine hepatitis, Canine parvovirus, Canine parainfluenza - Vaccination.
When: Check the protocol at least 6 weeks before import.

a) Dogs 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.
   1) Leptospirosis.
   2) Canine distemper.
   3) Canine parvovirus.
   4) Infectious canine hepatitis.
   5) Canine parainfluenza.
b) The last vaccination (1-5) must be carried out at least 14 days before importation.
c) The following information from the last valid vaccination must be recorded in the Certificate of Health and Origin (D2); name of vaccine, date of vaccination and expiry date.

When: In a timely manner and when the import date has been confirmed.

a) When determining the the import date, take into account the deadlines in relations to the vaccinations and antibody.
b) Dogs may only be transported to Iceland by air.
c) Keflavik airport is the only approved entry port for pets.
d) If the dog 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.
e) The flight number, day of arrival and estimated time of arrival, shall be recorded in the Certificate of Health and Origin (D2). In which way the dog will transported into the country (as cargo or luggage) shall also be recorded.
f) Service dogs travelling with the importer in the cabin: this must be stated in the Certificate of Health and Origin (D2) so that measures can be taken to accommodate the dog on arrival to Keflavik airport.

### 10. *Brucella canis* - sampling (blood sample)

**When:** within the last 30 days prior to importation (a mating ban from 60 days before import)

| 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). |
| b) | Approved laboratory tests for *B. canis*:
  - IFAT
  - RSAT
  - TAT |
| c) | The result must be negative. |
| d) | Confirmation of a negative result shall be stated in the Certificate of Health and Origin (D2) and the laboratory report must accompany the certificate. |
| e) | The laboratory report shall be in English and contain the following information: Laboratory name, microchip number, blood sampling date and test result. |
| f) | Dogs shall not be mated for at least 2 months (60 days) prior to import. The dog’s owner must confirm by signing the Certificate of Health and Origin. |

### 11. *Leishmania* spp – laboratory test (blood or tissue samples) Applies only to intact dogs.

**When:** within the last 30 days prior to importation.

| a) | 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). |
| b) | Approved laboratory tests for *Leishmania* spp.:
  a. PCR
  b. ELISA |
| c) | The result must be negative. |
| d) | Confirmation of a negative result shall be stated in the Certificate of Health and Origin (D2) and the laboratory report must accompany the Certificate. |
| e) | The laboratory report shall be in English and contain the following information: Laboratory name, microchip number, blood sampling date and test result. |
| f) | If the result is positive, the dog may be imported after it has been neutered/spayed. |
| g) | Neutering/spaying (surgical removal of gonads) must be confirmed by a veterinarian. Pharmaceutical neutering is not approved. |

### 12. *Angiostrongylus vasorum* (heart/lungworm) — laboratory test or treatment.

**When:** laboratory test within the last 30 days prior to importation or treatment between 10-5 days prior to importation.

| a) | Due *A. vasorum* either a laboratory test is performed (blood/faecal sample) or treatment is carried out. It is up to the importers choice. |
| b) | Laboratory testing for *A. vasorum* shall be as follows:
  1) A blood or faeces sample must be taken within the last 30 days prior to importation (it is convenient to have this sampling carried out during the same veterinary visit as for the first parasite treatment (see section 13)).
  2) Approved laboratory test for *A. vasorum*
    - Blood tests: ELISA, PCR
    - Faecal sample: Baermann method.
  3) The result must be negative. |
| 4) | Confirmation of a negative result shall be stated in the Certificate of Health and Origin (D2) and the laboratory report must accompany the certificate. |
| 5) | The laboratory report shall be in English and must contain the following information: Laboratory name, microchip number, blood sampling date and test result. |
| c) | For preventative treatment against *A. vasorum* the following applies:
  1) Treatment shall take place 5-10 days before importation. |
The dog must be treated with an approved antiparasitic medicinal product (spot-on) containing imidacloprid (10mg/kg) and moxidectin (2.5mg/kg) eg: Advocate or Advantage Multi.

13. **Parasites - first 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 (D2); name of drug, date and route of administration of the drug.

14. **Parasites – second treatment against internal and external parasites**
   **When:** 5-10 days before import.
   
   a) Treatment should include:
      1) Internal parasites; roundworms, tapeworms and
      2) External parasites; lice, fleas and ticks.
      3) *Angiostrongylus vasorum* (if testing was not performed). See section 12 c) on treatment.
   
   b) The following information on parasitic treatment must be recorded in the Certificate of Health and Origin (D2); name of drug, date and route of administration of the drug.

15. **Health examination prior to importation and completion of Certificate of Health and Origin.**
   **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*) and canine transmissible venereal tumors (CTVT).
   
   b) Certificate of Health and Origin for import of a dog
      1) Use the correct form, D2 - Certificate of health and origin for import of a dog to Iceland from a country where rabies is well controlled (category 2 countries)
      2) The details of the importer and dog 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.

16. **Endorsement by official veterinarian on behalf of competent authority**
    **When:** After the Certificate of Health and Origin has been issued by a veterinarian (item 15) and at least 5 days before importation.

The official veterinarian (veterinary officer), is a veterinarian who is employed by the competent authority (veterinary administration) in the exporting country. Official veterinarians generally do not work in a clinical setting. Their role is to review the Certificate of Health and Origin and confirm that the information provided and the supporting documents are valid. It is recommendet to contact the veterinary authorities in the exporting country in a timely manner, to make an appointment.

17. **Certificate of Health and Origin (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 15 and 16)

   a) A scanned copy of the Certificate of Health and Origin 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.
18. Transport to Iceland - Importation day.

a) Dogs must be transported in a cage large enough to be able to stand, lie down and turn around. The cage should 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 dog 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 dog to Iceland (inside an envelope attached to the cage)

1) Import permit (can be a copy)
2) Original Certificate of Health and Origin).
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.


Upon arrival at Keflavik Airport, dogs are transported directly to the pet reception center where the import inspection takes place. This inspection includes verifying the dogs 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 dogs are transported to the relevant quarantine station by their own staff.

Illegal importation

1. Pregnant bitches.
2. Lactating animals.
3. Animals which have been injured or just undergone major surgery prior to importation and require special supervision or treatment of any kind, except with the permission of MAST.
4. Hybrids from wolves and dogs for at least 10 generations.
5. The following dog breeds, as well as their cross breeds for at least 5 generations.
   b. Fila Brasileiro.
   c. Tosa Inu.
   d. Dogo Argentino.
   e. Other dog breeds or cross breeds, considered to be a risk in accordance with MAST.

Dog breeds that are closely related to the above mentioned breeds have been rejected by MAST. If in doubt about the type of dog you are planning to import, please contact MAST for further information. If item 1-5 applies to an imported dog, the import permit will be revoked.

Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority - Office of Import and Export, Dalshraun 1b, 220 Hafnarfjörði – tel. 530 4800
For any enquiries or document submission please contact us at: petimport@mast.is