

IMPORTATION OF DOG SEMEN FROM A CATEGORY 2 COUNTRY

The following guidance notes apply to the importation of deep-frozen and chilled dog semen to Iceland from approved category 2 countries belonging.

- The importer must have obtained an import permit issued by the Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST) before the dog is imported.
- The importer is responsible for fulfilling import conditions.
- **All** import conditions must be fulfilled.
- An authorised veterinarian in the country of export must perform all required veterinary procedures, whether they are vaccinations, screenings, or health examination.
- Only [certificate form DS2](#) issued by MAST is valid for this purpose.
- The completed certificate along with accompanying documents must be sent to MAST at the latest 10 days after semen collection.
- These guidelines are based on [Regulation No. 935/2004 on the importation of pets and dog semen and Regulation No. 202/2020 amending Regulation No. 935/2004.](#)

1. Import permit application - inspection fee

- The first step in the importation process is to apply for an import permit from MAST, and it is advisable to do so well in advance of the intended import. Applications are made through the [MAST service portal](#) using an electronic ID or Ice key (Íslykill).
- Information about the exporting country, dog breed, and the dog's (semen donor) microchip number shall be included when applying for the import permit. Importing semen from the following breeds and their mixes is prohibited: Pit bull terrier / Staffordshire bull terrier, Fila brasileiro, Toso inu, Dogo argentino. Mixes of wolves and dogs are also prohibited. MAST may also reject importation of other breeds.
- When the application has been received by MAST, the applicant will be sent a payment request for an inspection fee of ISK 17.784. Please note that this is the minimum fee, applicable only if satisfactory documents are submitted within the specified time frame. If these conditions are not met, additional costs may be incurred, billed at the hourly rate.
- When payment has been confirmed, an import permit is issued and sent to the applicant along with other necessary documents. The import permit is valid for one year.
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2. Health requirements - Certificate of Health and Origin (DS2)

It is important to consider early the requirements for vaccinations, sampling, etc. as this has to be done within a certain timeframe before the collection of semen. Additionally, sampling for laboratory tests must be done within a certain timeframe.

Certificate form DS2 (Certificate of health and origin for the import of chilled or deep-frozen dog semen to Iceland from a category 2 country) must be used. The certificate shall be issued by a veterinarian in the exporting country who manages semen collection. All sections of parts 1-9 must be completed.

- **Part 1: Information about the importer of the dog semen.** The information on the certificate and the import permit must match.
- **Part 2: Information about the semen donor; country of residence, microchip number, breed, date of birth, and name.**
- **Part 3: Information about the dog semen.** Information on date of semen collection, condition of semen (chilled/deep-frozen), identification of container and packaging type must be submitted.
- **Part 4: Information about transportation, arrival time, etc.** The consignment shall be delivered to MAST, Laugavegur 166, 105 Reykjavík, where import inspection takes place before the consignment is handed over to the importer. The semen container must be sealed by the veterinarian.
- **Part 5: Declaration of the owner / handler of the dog (semen donor) in the exporting country.** Signature that confirms that the dog did not mate naturally for at least 60 days prior to semen collection and that it stayed in an approved category 1 or 2 country for the last 6 months prior to semen collection.
- **Part 6: Vaccinations**
 - **Rabies: vaccination and antibody test.** The dog must have a valid rabies vaccination, ie. have received the appropriate basic immunization and it must have been maintained according to the instructions from the manufacturer. 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.

Blood samples for antibody testing shall be taken at the earliest 30 days after vaccination. Antibody testing shall be carried out by a laboratory approved by the European Union for this purpose. Rabies antibody titre should measure at least 0,5 IU/ml.

A rabies antibody test with a satisfactory result must be carried out at least 90 days before semen collection, on a blood sample taken not less than 30 days after the preceding vaccination.

The antibody test is valid as long as the rabies vaccination is kept up to date according to the manufacturer's instructions.

- **Leptospirosis:** The semen donor must have a valid vaccination against leptospirosis. Semen collection for importation can take place at the earliest 14 days after vaccination.
- **Canine distemper:** The semen donor must have a valid vaccination against canine distemper. Semen collection for importation can take place at the earliest 14 days after vaccination.

- **Part 7: Laboratory tests / sampling**

- ***Brucella canis* – blood test:** Within the last 30 days prior to semen collection, a blood sample shall be drawn from the dog for testing for brucellosis (*Brucella canis*). Approved laboratory tests for *B. canis*: IFAT, RSAT, TAT. The test result must be negative and recorded in the Certificate of Health and Origin (DS2). The laboratory report in English containing the laboratory name, microchip number, blood sample date and test result must accompany the certificate.
- ***Leishmania spp.* – blood test:** Within the last 30 days prior to semen collection, a blood sample shall be drawn from the dog for testing for leishmaniosis (*Leishmania spp.*). Approved laboratory tests for *Leishmania spp.*: PCR, ELISA. The test result must be negative and recorded in the Certificate of Health and Origin (DS2). The laboratory report in English containing the laboratory name, microchip number, blood sample date and test result must accompany the certificate

Overview of vaccinations and laboratory tests for the import of dog semen

Vaccination / tests	Timing	Comments
Rabies	Vaccination at least 45 days prior to semen collection	Blood sampling/testing at the earliest 30 days after vaccination. Result must be \geq 0.5 IU/ml.
Canine Influenza	The last vaccination no less than 14 days prior to semen collection	Must be vaccinated at least twice with 3 weeks apart (initial vaccination)
Leptospirosis	The last vaccination no less than 14 days prior to semen collection	Must be vaccinated at least twice with 2-4 weeks apart (initial vaccination)
Canine distemper	The last vaccination no less than 14 days prior to semen collection	Must be vaccinated at least twice with 3-4 weeks apart (initial vaccination) before 16 weeks of age, for older dogs one vaccination is enough
<i>Brucella canis</i>	Blood sampling within 30 days prior to semen collection	The result must be negative
<i>Leishmania spp.</i>	Blood sampling within 30 days prior to semen collection	The result must be negative

- **Part 8 and Part 9: Health examination, semen collection, and signature of veterinarian.** The veterinarian confirms with their signature that the dog does not show any symptoms of contagious diseases on the day of semen collection. Additionally, they confirm that the microchip number on all accompanying documents is consistent with the dog's microchip number.
- **Part 10 is completed by MAST as confirmation that the import has been pre-approved.**

3. Transportation of dog semen to Iceland and delivery to the owner

The semen must be stored in a sealed (provide seal number on certificate), shockproof containers marked with the name of the importer, their address and phone number, as well as the semen donor's microchip number. The semen shall be sent via express mail along with the originals of all required certificates to MAST, Laugavegur 166, 105 Reykjavík. The description of the package's contents shall state: Dog semen, customs code 0511.9909.

Import inspection; document and identification checks are carried out upon the arrival of the consignment, which is then handed over to the importer. Dog semen that does not meet the importation requirements will either be re-sent out of the country or disposed of without compensation and at the expense of the importer.

The completed and signed certificate must be sent for pre-approval to MAST even though the dog semen will be stored in the country of export and not sent immediately to Iceland. Only after MAST has approved the certificate, the consignment may be shipped. Upon arrival to MAST the consignment is inspected by MAST. The importer will be notified and can collect the consignment when document and identity check has been completed.

4. Insemination with imported semen - Notification requirement

Only veterinarians licensed in Iceland are allowed to inseminate bitches with imported semen. Bitches that have been inseminated with imported semen shall not be mated naturally at the same time. A veterinarian who inseminates a female dog with imported semen must notify MAST of this. It should also be reported to MAST if the bitch dies or becomes ill after insemination or during pregnancy. Fetuses and placentas shall be preserved and sent for examination.

5. Category 2 countries

Annex I to Regulation No. 200/2020 on the importation of dogs and cats. Countries where rabies is found and is subject to notification and kept under control based on the information that the MAST has, belong to category 2:

United States, Bosnia, Greenland, Herzegovina, Canada, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Taiwan, Turkey, Hungary.

The risk of rabies infection is higher in countries in category 2, so preparations for importation are more time-consuming. All dogs and cats must be vaccinated against rabies. 30 days later, a blood test should be taken and antibodies measured to confirm that the vaccination has been successful. But since the incubation period of the rabies virus can be very long, 90 days must pass after the antibody test to make sure that the animal does not show symptoms of rabies before it is transported to Iceland. These rules are in full compliance with the recommendations of the International Organization for Animal Health (OIE) on the prevention of rabies