

# Importing cagebirds\* to Iceland

*\*Applies to pet cagebirds*

## 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 35.567. Upon receiving payment confirmation, an import permit will be issued and sent to the applicant along with all necessary information. The bird 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 35.567)
- 2) Fees for inspection during home quarantine.
- 3) Veterinary costs for importation preparation in country of export.
- 4) 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.

## 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

Cagebirds 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 bird shall be kept in a separate space where there is limited traffic.
- One family member shall be assigned to taking care of the quarantined bird.
- No other animals can stay or visit the premises during the home quarantine period.
- Birds in quarantine cannot have any contact with other animals.
- The person taking care of birds in home quarantine must take precautions regarding cleanliness and sanitation when dealing with the birds. This includes washing and disinfecting hands after handling the birds 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 birds during 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 birds 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 cagebirds by a pet shop the following requirements apply to quarantine facilities:

- The birds shall be kept in a separate room where there is limited traffic.
- One staff member shall be assigned to taking care of the quarantined birds and have access to the quarantine facilities.
- Birds in quarantine cannot have any contact with other animals.
- The person taking care of the quarantined birds must use protective clothing and take precautions regarding cleanliness and sanitation when dealing with the birds. This includes washing and disinfecting hands after handling the birds 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 birds during 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 birds to a veterinary clinic without consulting with MAST first. In the event of death of the pet, it must be necropsied.

## 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 cagebirds to Iceland must be presented to customs at arrival. The transport crate must be robust and of a material easy to clean and disinfect. The size of the crate must be appropriate for the bird and ventilation holes may not be large enough for any body parts to get stuck.

A veterinarian from MAST will check the animal upon arrival. Permitted time for arrival of animals at Keflavik airport is between 06:00 and 17:00 on the quarantine admission dates. If arriving outside of these specified hours is necessary, the importer must apply for permission to MAST by e-mail to [petimport@mast.is](mailto:petimport@mast.is), but such permission is not guaranteed. MAST may grant approval for arrival between 17:00 and 21:00 if staff availability allows. Later arrivals will not be approved. 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. Pets will not be allowed to stay overnight at the airport.

## Illegal importation

Cagebirds 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 Cagebird 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 cagebird to Iceland, the veterinarian confirms the following:

- a) Information on the importer (the import permit holder).
- b) Information on the bird; breed and identification.
- c) The bird shall not show any signs of infectious disease.
- d) 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.
- e) A sample (blood/fecal/cloacal swab) taken no more than 3 weeks before importation shall be tested for Newcastle disease with a negative result. The test shall be performed at an authorised laboratory.
- f) A sample (blood/fecal/cloacal swab) taken no more than 3 weeks before importation shall be tested for Avian influenza with a negative result. The test shall be performed at an authorised laboratory.
- g) ALL LABORATORY REPORTS MUST BE IN ENGLISH**

At least 5 days before the date of importation a scanned copy of the certificate (both pages) and the test reports must be e-mailed to MAST (petimport@mast.is) for pre-approval. At the time of import the following documents must accompany the bird:

- 1) the original Certificate of Health and Origin for Import of a Cagebird to Iceland
- 2) the original test reports.
- 3) the import permit issued by MAST.