

# Importing pet rabbits and rodents\* to Iceland

*\*Applies to pet rabbits and guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils and degu*

## 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 which the applicant must provide. After the inspection the applicant will be sent a notification and a request to pay a permit fee. Upon receiving payment confirmation, an import permit will be issued and sent to the applicant along with all necessary information. The pet will be examined by a veterinary officer at least on two occasions; on arrival at Keflavik airport and once during the quarantine period and more often if needed (in the event of illness or injury).

A payment request for 4 hours\* is sent to the applicant upon receipt of application by MAST. This fee covers

- 1) Inspection of home quarantine\*
- 2) Import inspection upon arrival at Keflavík Airport\*
- 3) Inspection of the pet at home quarantine before quarantine release\*
- 4) Issuing of the permit and inspection of certificates
- 5) 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.

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\*(hourly rate + travel expenses according to the MAST tariff)

## 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](#). 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 pet rabbit/rodent to Iceland, the veterinarian confirms the following:

- Part 1: Information on the importer (the import permit holder).
- Part 2: Information on the pet; breed and identification, rabbits must be microchipped.
- Part 3: Testing for salmonella. 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.  
NB ! LABORATORY REPORTS MUST BE IN ENGLISH.
- Part 4: Health exam. The pet shall not show any signs of infectious disease.
- Part 5: Signature of veterinarian.
- Part 6: Estimated arrival date and time at Keflavik airport.

At least 5 days before the date of importation a scanned copy of the certificate (both pages) and the salmonella test report must be sent by e-mail to MAST ([petimport@mast.is](mailto:petimport@mast.is)) for pre-approval. At the time of import the following documents must accompany the pet: 1) the original certificate of health and origin for Import of a Rabbit/Rodent to Iceland; 2) the original salmonella test report; 3) the import permit issued by MAST.

## Home quarantine for 4 weeks

Pet rabbits and rodents for which a MAST import permit has been issued must be quarantined at home for four weeks upon arrival in Iceland according to article 28 [of regulation no. 201/2020 on quarantine facilities for pets](#). They must be taken directly from the airport to the home quarantine.

- The pet shall be kept in a separate space where there is limited traffic.
- One family member shall be assigned to taking care of the quarantined pet.
- No other animals can stay or visit the premises during the home quarantine period.
- Pets in quarantine cannot have any contact with other animals.
- The person taking care of pets in home quarantine must take precautions regarding cleanliness and sanitation when dealing with the pets. This includes washing and disinfecting hands after handling the pets 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 pets during home 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 pets to a veterinary clinic without consulting with MAST first. In the event of death of the pet, it must be necropsied.

## Quarantine at pet shops for 4 weeks

In the case of importation of pet rabbits/rodents by a pet shop the following requirements apply to quarantine facilities:

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

## Import inspection

Upon arrival at Keflavik Airport, import inspection by MAST takes place (at baggage claims / customs office). This inspection includes verifying that all required documentation accompany the pet and that the pet does not show any obvious sign of infectious disease.

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 a 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.

## Transport cage

The transport cage must be robust and of a material easy to clean and disinfect (soft carriers are not acceptable). The size of the cage must be appropriate for the pet and ventilation holes may not be large enough for any body parts to get stuck.

## Illegal importation

Pet rabbits or rodents 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](#), [regulation no. 935/2004](#) (with later amendments) on the Importation of pets [regulation no. 201/2020](#) on the quarantine of pets apply to importation of pets to Iceland.

## Further information

- All necessary information on importation of dogs can be found on [the MAST website](#).
- For details on veterinary preparations for the pet, consult with the preparing veterinarian and refer to the [certificate](#) and these instructions.
- Documents for importation shall be sent to [petimport@mast.is](mailto:petimport@mast.is)
- The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST), the Office of Import & Export at Laugavegur 166, 105 Reykjavík (tel. +354 530 4800) handles the importation of pets to Iceland.