



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 33/24

Export of Dogs and Cats to Australia – New Process Agreed.

Date issued: 07 October 2024

Purpose

To notify veterinarians in GB of a new process that has been agreed between UK and Australia for the export of dogs and cats to Australia from the UK. Pets exported under the new process will be eligible for ten days' quarantine on arrival in Australia rather than the current thirty days, providing all other requirements are met.

To enable veterinarians to consider the new process in advance and to make any preparations they consider necessary prior to implementation.

Background

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) in Australia introduced new requirements on 1 March 2023 for the import of dogs and cats into Australia from other countries, not just UK. These measures were introduced to reduce the risk of rabies entering Australia which is rabies-free. Currently, dogs and cats arriving in Australia from the UK must spend a minimum of 30 days in quarantine.

Defra, APHA, DAERA and DAFF have been collaborating to agree a new process, an option that will mean pets are eligible for a minimum period of 10 days in quarantine on arrival, whilst still maintaining robust rabies policies.

The new process was fully agreed on 22 August 2024 and work is underway to finalise the details and develop all the new documents, guidance and training ready for implementation. In GB the implementation date will be 4 November 2024

In the meantime, details of the new process are being shared with veterinarians in GB and with exporters and export companies.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

For exports from GB, in order for a pet to be eligible for the minimum 10 days' quarantine, export preparation in relation to rabies requirements, pet identity checks and export health certification work will need to be carried out by veterinarians who are authorised by APHA as an OV under either the OCQ(V) – SX or OCQ(V) – CA. In addition, these OVs will need to have an additional authorisation from APHA that is specific for export of dogs and cats to Australia – OV66 authorisation.

All of the following will need to be carried out by OV66 authorised OVs in order for the animal to be potentially eligible:

- Animal Identification (ID) checks – two identification checks will be required by different OVs from different practices that are not associated. Each OV must complete a separate ID declaration and email it to DAFF from their OV66 registered email address.
- Rabies Neutralising Antibody Titre Test (RNATT) blood sampling (this can be done at the same time as or after the second identity check)
- RNATT Declaration
- Export Health Certification (EHC) certification

An identification check declaration will include the following:

- OVs will need to take a colour photograph of the animal at microchip scanning which includes both a legible microchip number on the scanner and distinguishing features of the animal. The photograph must be emailed with the declaration to DAFF. Examples can be found in the guidance on the [APHA Vet Gateway](#).
- OVs will need to check that the microchip number is registered on a Defra-approved UK microchip database. The details of the owner listed on the database must be consistent with the owner details provided by the exporter.
- The OV will need to keep records of this identity verification such as copies of the documentation, database record and standard veterinary consultation records. DAFF may request these if further information is required or as part of their standard verification.

To note that if an import permit has already been issued in another country, the ID declaration and RNATT declaration may not need to be repeated in GB. Exporters and OVs may need to check with DAFF that this existing documentation is acceptable.

Relevant guidance can be accessed on the [APHA Vet Gateway](#) and in particular the [guidance document](#)

In order to obtain OV66 authorisation, OVs who are authorised under either SX or CA will need to apply to APHA using a dedicated application form (OV65) to request authorisation. As part of that application, OVs will be asked to provide an email address from which they will send pet ID check declarations to DAFF and confirm that the email address can be shared with DAFF. Declarations will only be accepted by DAFF if received from this email address. A group or shared email address will not be accepted – it must be an email address specific to the individual OV.

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The APHA OV team will carry out some basic checks including the OCQ authorisations held by the individual OV and the date they are due to revalidate their SX or CA qualification.

Confirmation of OV66 authorisation will be sent by email from the OV team. The authorisation will be valid until the revalidation deadline date of the OCQ(V) – SX or CA. OVs will be required to reapply for OV66 authorisation when they have successfully revalidated their SX or CA. After the initial renewal, this will be every 4 years.

OVs who are not OV66 authorised may still continue to carry out export preparation and certification work for pets to Australia. However, these pets will be required to go into a minimum of 30 days' quarantine on arrival in Australia.

Action

Veterinary surgeons who do not currently hold one of either the OCQ(V) – SX or CA and who would like to apply for the OV66 authorisation can complete the OCQ in preparation

OVs can apply in advance of the implementation date for OV66 authorisation using the [OV65 application form](#) which must be emailed to the APHA OV team.

No authorisations will be granted prior to 4 November 2024.

OVs should be aware that initially there may be a delay in granting authorisations if application numbers are high.

OVs are encouraged to share this information with their colleagues.

Further Information

APHA OV Team:

Email: CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gov.uk

Tel: 020 8026 1094

APHA's Centre for International Trade – Carlisle:

Email: PetExports@apha.gov.uk

Tel: 03000 300 201

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