

Guidance document for Official Veterinarians preparing dogs and cats for export from the United Kingdom (UK) to Australia

November 2024

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Instructions for animals being prepared in the UK

1. There are two options when animals are being prepared in the UK:

A) **Preparation for 10-day post export quarantine (PEQ) eligibility** – the preparation must be undertaken by OVs who are specifically authorised by APHA/DAERA for export to Australia – OV66 authorisation. This is in addition to authorisation under either the OCQ(V) - CA or SX, or Authorisation C “Certification of pets to 3rd countries, the EU and issue of pet passports’ in Northern Ireland (NI)”

or

B) **Preparation for 30-days PEQ eligibility** - the preparation can be undertaken by any authorised OVs who holds relevant OCQ(V) for pet exports (CA or SX/ equivalent in NI)

A) Preparation for 10-day post export quarantine (PEQ) eligibility

A new process has been agreed between DEFRA and The Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

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. (They can be from two different practices within the same corporate practice group.) Each OV must complete a separate ID declaration and email it to DAFF from their own email address registered with their OV66 authorisation (this must be a personal email address not a general practice or group email address)
- **Rabies Neutralising Antibody Titre Test (RNATT) blood sampling** (this can be done at the same date as second identity check or afterwards)
- **RNATT Declaration**
- **Export Health Certification (EHC) certification**

It is important to note that animal will only be deemed eligible for 10 days PEQ, by DAFF, if all of the requirements are met.

In summary, the whole preparation process includes:

- a) Rabies vaccination and certificate (which may be before or after 1st ID verification)**
- b) 1st ID verification + ID declaration**
- c) 2nd ID verification + ID declaration**
- d) RNATT blood sampling + laboratory submission form**
- e) RNATT laboratory report**
- f) RNATT declaration**
- g) Other tests & treatments (as required per EHC)**
- h) Export health certification**

Please note: An animal's microchip must be scanned and verified **every** time it is tested, treated or examined prior to export.

Details of each step in the process:

a) Rabies vaccination and the certificate

- May be undertaken by any MRCVS veterinarian
- Microchip must be read and recorded by MRCVS at time of vaccination
- Animal must be vaccinated against rabies with a government approved inactivated rabies virus vaccine when at least 12 weeks old (84 days old)
- In a case of primary vaccination, it is recommended that at least four (4) weeks elapse between the rabies vaccination and blood sampling. This will enable the animal to produce sufficient antibodies to record a positive test result.
- In this context, "government approved vaccine" means a vaccine with a current marketing authorisation for use in dogs or cats. If the vaccination has been carried out in another country, and the animal was legally imported into the UK, then the vaccine can be considered to be government approved
- Copy of the Rabies certificate is required

b) 1st ID verification + ID declaration

- Must be undertaken by OV66(1)
- Must be done before RNATT blood sampling and between 180 days - 365 days (12 months) prior to export.
- Declaration must be emailed to DAFF by OV66(1) from their registered email address.

c) 2nd ID verification+ ID declaration

- Must be undertaken by OV66(2)

- OV66(2) must be different to OV66(1) and working for a different veterinary practice.
- Must be done between 180 days - 365 days (12 months) prior to export.
- Can be done on the same day as RNATT blood sampling but 2nd ID verification must be completed prior to blood sampling.
- Declaration must be emailed to DAFF by OV66(2) from their registered email address.
- The date of second ID check is considered the verification date and blood collection must be done on or after the second ID check

For both b) and c) - blank copy of ID declaration form will be provided with Notes for Guidance (NFG).

As a part of ID declaration, the following is required:

- Two separate identification declarations must be conducted and submitted by two different official veterinarians – OV 66(1) and OV 66(2), who do not work at the same practice.
 - The OV66(2) signing the latter of the two declarations may also collect blood for the rabies neutralising antibody titre test (RNATT) on the same day as the identity verification.
 - DAFF will consider the date of the identification verification to be the date the second OV completes the identity verification.
- When completed, this document and the colour photograph must be forwarded to DAFF at catdogidcheck@aff.gov.au by each OV.
 - DAFF will only accept declarations from OVs that have current training and authorisation to prepare companion animals for export and that have been included in the APHA/DAERA approved list of OVs for export certification of pets to Australia - OV66 authorisation.
 - DAFF will only accept declarations that come directly from the OV's email address provided to Defra/DAERA as part of their OV66 authorisation. DAFF will not accept identification declarations from any other source.
 - The email must include the following information in the subject line: Importer surname, importer first name, animal name, microchip number, country of export (e.g. Smith, John, Spot 123456789, United Kingdom).
 - All pages must be signed, stamped and dated by the completing OV.
 - DAFF will send an automatic email which confirms receipt of the email.
- **OVs must also 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.**

Guidance is available with sample photos of acceptable and non-acceptable ID check images (ET261) for reference.

- **OVs must check that the microchip number is registered on a UK database which is UK government approved. The details of the owner listed on the database must be consistent with the owner details provided by the exporter.**
 - The list of UK government approved databases are available on gov.uk: [Get your dog or cat microchipped - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-your-dog-or-cat-microchipped)
 - OVs might need to request any necessary details from the owner of the animal, such as what database is animal registered on, copy of the current database registration (snip, email confirmation) etc, which will enable OV to keep the necessary records and verify this information themselves.
 - The OV must 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 our standard verification.

Please note, that DAFF operational team will follow the established process for assessing ID declarations as follows:

- A DAFF officer will process the ID declaration as they are received. If an ID declaration is not accepted, the OV will be notified within 2 business days of submission to DAFF. DAFF will not provide confirmation of acceptance for each ID declaration due to high volume received. The OV66 will only receive an automated response confirming that the ID declaration has been received and will be assessed.
- If an OV66 submits an unacceptable photo with the ID declaration, a DAFF officer will request a new photo of the animal. This photo must clearly show the animal with a microchip scanner indicating the microchip number. If the new photo meets DAFF standards, the ID declaration will remain valid. However, if the new photo is also unacceptable, the ID declaration will no longer be valid. In this case, the animal will only be eligible to a 30-day PEQ, unless a further acceptable ID declaration is submitted. The RNATT sampling will need to be repeated if a further ID declaration is required. Therefore, there is a risk associated with RNATT sampling done on the same day as the second ID check if there is any doubt about ID photos.
- **An import permit granted by DAFF, following receipt of the ID declarations and all other documentation as required from the exporter, will state whether the animal is eligible for the minimum 10-day or 30-day post-entry quarantine period. This document can then be provided to the OV certifying the EHC as evidence that the animal in question should be eligible for 10-day quarantine, subject to all other requirements being met.**

d) Blood sample for RNATT test + laboratory submission form

- Must be undertaken by OV66 -authorised OV
- Must be done between 180 days –365 days (12 months) prior to export.

- Can be done on the same day as second ID verification and declaration, but 2nd ID verification and declaration must be completed prior to blood sampling.
- Sample must be tested at approved laboratory.

e) RNATT laboratory report required

- It must include animal's microchip number, blood sampling date and result greater than 0.5 IU/ml.

f) RNATT declaration

- Blank copy of the UK RNATT declaration will be provided with NFG.
- Must be completed by OV66-authorized OV (different to the OV66-authorized OV who carried out the blood sampling).
- Copy of the RNATT laboratory report and Rabies vaccination certificates are required to complete RNATT declaration.
- RNATT declaration must be submitted in the application form to import the animal to Australia.

g) Other tests and treatments (as required per EHC)

- May be undertaken by any MRCVS veterinarian as long as the pets' microchip is verified each time.
- For more information on these please refer to Notes for Guidance accompanying the EHC

h) Export health certification

- Must be completed by OV66-authorized OV (different to the OV66-authorized OV who carried out the blood sampling), in accordance with principles of certification.
- Laboratory reports and declarations are endorsed by certifying OV66-authorized OV and attached to the Export Health Certificate (EHC) (fan stamped).

B) Preparation for 30-days PEQ eligibility

This preparation can be undertaken by any OVs who are authorised under the relevant OCQ for pet exports, and they don't need specific OV66 authorisation. However, if an OV66-authorized OV does not carry out the procedures as specified above, the minimum PEQ will be 30 days.

No specific ID declaration will be required, however please note: An animal's microchip must be scanned and verified every time it is tested, treated or examined prior to export.

In summary, the preparation process for this option includes:

a. Rabies vaccination and certificate

b. RNATT blood sampling + laboratory submission form

- Must be undertaken by OV.
- Must be between 180 days – 365 days (12 months) prior to export.
- Sample must be tested at approved laboratory.

c. RNATT laboratory report

- Must include animal's microchip number, blood sampling date and result greater than 0.5 IU/ml.

d. RNATT declaration

- Blank copy of the UK RNATT declaration will be provided with NFG.
- Must be completed by OV (different to the OV who carried out the blood sampling).
- Copy of the RNATT laboratory report and Rabies vaccination certificates are required to complete RNATT declaration.
- RNATT declaration must be submitted in the application form to import animal to Australia.

e. Other tests and treatments (as required per EHC)

- May be undertaken by MRCVS veterinarian as long as the pets' microchip is verified each time.
- For more information on these please refer to Notes for Guidance accompanying the EHC

f. Export health certification

- Must be completed by an OV (different to the OV who carried out the blood sampling), in accordance with principles of certification.
- Laboratory reports and declarations are endorsed by the certifying OV and attached to the Export Health Certificate (EHC) (fan stamped).

Instructions for animals being partially prepared in DAFF - Approved country outside of UK

Animals prepared under this option might still be eligible for 10 days PEQ.

This approach should allow the UK to facilitate export of the small number of animals that have some of their early preparation completed in approved countries outside the UK.

OV to follow instructions under sections 1A or 1B as appropriate depending on the duration of post-entry quarantine noted on the import permit.

To note:

- If an import permit has already been issued in another country, the ID declaration, blood sampling and RNATT declaration may not need to be repeated in GB. OVs/exporters may need to check with DAFF that this existing documentation is acceptable. DAFF have confirmed the following:
 - Animals that have their RNATT declaration prepared in another approved country but are later moved to the UK and intended to be exported from the UK to Australia do not require a repeated RNATT declaration in the UK; they can be exported with the foreign / original RNATT declaration.
 - Documents that relate to activities carried out in other countries (such as the RNATT declaration or laboratory reports) do not need to be endorsed by the UK OVs, instead they can be fan stamped and attached with the export health certificate.

Please note: Returning Australian animals can use their Australian export permit as proof of identity and do NOT need to undergo an identify check using OV66 OVs process to be eligible for the 10-day PEQ.

Summary table

1. Animals fully prepared in the United Kingdom (UK)

1A

10-day Post-Entry Quarantine (PEQ) eligibility using OV66 OVs process

- a) Rabies vaccination and certificate
- b) 1st ID verification + ID declaration by OV66(1)
- c) 2nd ID verification + ID declaration by OV66(2)

ID declaration:

- colour photograph of animal showing microchip number and features
- microchip registered on UK government approved database
- emailed to DAFF from registered OV email address

- d) RNATT blood sampling + laboratory submission form (OV66)
- e) RNATT laboratory report
- f) RNATT declaration (OV66 - not the OV who carried out blood sampling)
- g) Other tests & treatments (as required per EHC)
- h) Export health certification (OV66 - not the OV who carried out blood sampling)

1B

30-day PEQ eligibility using OVs process

- a) Rabies vaccination and certificate
- b) RNATT blood sampling + laboratory submission form (OV)
- c) RNATT laboratory report
- d) RNATT declaration (OV - not the OV who carried out blood sampling)
- e) Other tests & treatments (as required per EHC)
- f) Export health certification (OV - not the OV who carried out blood sampling)

2. Animals partially prepared in approved country outside of the UK

Animals prepared under this option might still be eligible for 10 days PEQ.

OV to follow instructions under sections 1A or 1B as appropriate depending on the duration of PEQ noted on the import permit.

To note:

When an import permit has already been issued in another country, the ID declaration, blood sampling and RNATT declaration may not need to be repeated in GB. OVs/exporters may need to check with DAFF that this existing documentation is acceptable.



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Data Protection:

For information on how we handle personal data visit www.gov.uk and search Animal and Plant Health Agency Personal Information Charter.

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.