

Entry and re-entry of dogs, cats, ferrets and other pets into Austria when travelling from third countries

Pets fulfilling the conditions described below are not subject to checks by a border veterinarian in Austria.

Pets

Pet animals are defined as dogs, cats, ferrets, invertebrates (except bees and crustaceans), ornamental tropical fish, amphibia, reptiles, birds (except poultry) as well as rodents and domestic rabbits which are accompanying their owners or a natural person responsible for such animals on behalf of the owner during their movement and are not intended to be sold or transferred to another owner. Altogether, **a maximum of five animals** may be taken along per person. With the exception of dogs, cats and ferrets, no certificates have been laid down so far.

Due to the Avian Influenza situation special conditions apply regarding **ornamental birds** until at least 31st of December 2006 providing for checks by a border veterinarian in each case (see separate info leaflet).

For dogs, cats and ferrets the following rules apply:

Each animal entering the EU from a third country while travelling with a private person has to be vaccinated against rabies. It has to be identified and a certificate has to be carried along for each animal. Also, a serological test for rabies (titration test) is required for each animal that does not originate from a third country entered into the specific third country list.

Anti-Rabies vaccination

Anti-rabies vaccination is deemed valid

- if the animal has been vaccinated with an inactivated vaccine in accordance with the licensing for market authorization of the vaccine in the country of origin;
- 21 days after finishing the basic vaccination procedure;
- if the animal has been re-vaccinated at regular intervals;
- if the vaccine has an efficiency of at least one antigenic unit per dose (WHO standard).

Identification

Each animal has to be identified by a clearly readable tattoo or a microchip.

Certification

Each animal has to be accompanied by a certificate as laid down in Commission Decision 2004/824/EC. You can find a specimen certificate under the internet address at the end of this information. This certificate has to be issued by an official veterinarian in German or English and, if required, be endorsed by the competent authority.

The certificate must be accompanied by supporting documentation certifying a valid anti-rabies vaccination (e.g. international vaccination certificate, vaccination passport).

Pets (dogs, cats, ferrets) travelling from third countries not specifically named:

Each animal has to be identified.

Each animal has to be vaccinated against rabies and the vaccination must be valid.

For each animal a **certificate** has to be presented including certification of a **serological test for rabies** (antibody titration).

This serological test for rabies has to be carried out as follows: a neutralising antibody titration at least equal to 0,5 IU/ml carried out on a sample taken by an authorised veterinarian at least 30 days after vaccination and three months before being moved. The titration has to be carried out in an EU-approved laboratory.

This serological test for rabies needs not to be repeated if a pet has been re-vaccinated at the required intervals.

Re-entry of Austrian animals from third countries not specifically named:

In the case of re-entry, a **pet pass** has to be carried along for each animal including the entry of the valid rabies vaccination and in addition the **serological test** for rabies (or, until its expiry in October 2005 at the latest, a vaccination pass with certification of the titration).

The three-month period between bloodletting and movement does not apply to the re-entry of a pet animal if the passport demonstrates that the serological test for rabies was carried out, with a positive result, before the animal left the territory of the Community.

Pets (dogs, cats, ferrets) travelling from third countries specifically named:

Ascension Island, United Arab Emirates, Antigua and Barbuda, Netherlands Antilles, Argentina, Australia, Aruba, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Barbados, Bulgaria, Bahrain, Belarus, Bermuda, Canada, Chile, Fiji, Falkland Islands, Hong Kong, Croatia, Jamaica, Japan, St. Kitts and Nevis, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Mauritius, Mexico, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, St. Pierre et Miquelon, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, St. Helena, Trinidad and

Tobago, Taiwan, United States of America, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna as well as Mayotte.

For animals travelling from the third countries mentioned above the following applies:

Each animal has to be identified.

Each animal has to be vaccinated against rabies and the vaccination must be valid.

For each animal a **certificate** has to be presented. A serological test for rabies (antibody titration) is not required.

Re-entry of Austrian animals from these third countries:

In the case of re-entry, a **pet pass** has to be carried along for each animal. A serological test for rabies is not required.

Third countries with special conditions:

The limitation of five animals per person does not apply to the countries Andorra, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, and Vatican City State. Animals travelling from these countries may enter the EC accompanied by the certificate or a pet pass (Switzerland, Liechtenstein, San Marino already make use of a pet pass).

Re-entry of Austrian animals from third countries with special conditions:

In the case of re-entry, a pet pass has to be carried along for each animal. A serological test for rabies is not required.

Entry of dogs and cats younger than 12 weeks:

All animals younger than 12 weeks imported into Austria for non commercial purposes are subject to border veterinarian control. Furthermore, an **import permit** by the Federal Ministry of Health and Women is required. Such permit may only be issued if the animal originates in a third country specifically named or a third country with special conditions.

Commercial imports:

From 12 October 2004 all imports of dogs, cats and ferrets older than 12 weeks are subject to the conditions of Commission Decision 2004/595/EC.

Important internet addresses:

Information and specimen certificate:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/nocomm_third_en.htm

List of EU-approved laboratories for serological rabies tests:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/approval_en.htm