

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

New conditions regarding pets travelling with tourists have been in force since 29<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

### Pets accompanying travellers

Pet animals are defined as dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*), domestic cats (*Felis silvestris catus*), ferrets (*Mustela putorius furo*), invertebrates (except bees, bumble bees, molluscs and crustaceans), ornamental tropical fish, amphibia, reptiles, birds (except poultry) as well as rodents, hares and rabbits not intended for food production, which are accompanying their owners or another authorised 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**. If the animals are transported separated in time from the animal keeper's travel such transport may only be effected within a maximum of 5 days of the movement of the animal keeper.

Altogether, **a maximum total of five** dogs, cats or ferrets may be taken along per person. This number may be exceeded where proof can be provided in writing that the animals enter the EU for participating in a competition, exhibition or sporting event or in training for such events and are older than 6 months of age.

### Controls

Pets travelling with tourists fulfilling the conditions described below are not subject to checks by a border veterinarian in Austria, but have to be checked by Customs.

Dogs, cats and ferrets have to be presented by their owners, keepers or the person authorised by the owner in writing for checks by the Customs. This has to be done by said persons by actively contacting the customs officers. At airports this has to be done by using the exit marked in **red**.

The animal health certificate has to be stamped and signed by the competent officer carrying out the checks. The border crossing points where these checks are carried out are the airports of **Vienna-Schwechat, Linz, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Graz-Thalerhof and Klagenfurt** as well as the customs offices vis-à-vis Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

Where the checks show that the pets do not comply with the conditions for pets travelling with tourists the checks will be pursued by the border veterinarians. They then have to proceed as provided for in Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013.

Due to the avian influenza situation in third countries special conditions apply regarding **birds** providing for checks by a border veterinarian in any case (see separate info leaflet).

## Conditions for entry

**Invertebrates (except bees, bumble bees, molluscs and crustaceans), ornamental tropical fish, amphibia, reptiles, birds (except poultry) as well as rodents and domestic rabbits**

These animals have to accompany their owners or another authorised person responsible for these animals on behalf of the owner during their movement and must not be intended to be sold or transferred to another owner. There is no certificate required.

**For dogs, cats and ferrets different rules for entry apply depending from the country of provenance:**

**1. A) The entry of dogs, cats and ferrets is possible from all third countries, if the following conditions are complied with:**

- ✓ Each animal has to be **identified**.
- ✓ Each animal has to be **vaccinated against rabies** and the vaccination must be valid.
- ✓ for each animal an **animal health certificate** containing
- ✓ a confirmation of a **serological test for rabies antibodies**
- ✓ **and a declaration in accordance with article 25 (3) of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013** have to be presented. This declaration has to be issued in German and English and filled in in BLOCK LETTERS. A model declaration has been provided for in Annex IV Part 3 of Regulation (EU) No 577/2013.

If these conditions are complied with, a dog, cat or ferret is at least 7 months old.

**1. B) Re-entry of dogs, cats and ferrets originating in Austria or another EU-Member state is possible from all third countries if for each animal**

- a **pet pass\*** accompanies the animal in which
- a **valid vaccination against rabies** and in addition
- a **serological test for rabies antibodies** has been entered. Where a serological test for rabies has **not** been entered into the pet pass, an attestation of a serological test for rabies antibodies has to be provided together with the pet passport.

The three-month period between bloodletting for sampling and movement is not required in the case of 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 European Union.

Where a pet passport can not be provided for the animal the conditions of point 1. A) have to be complied with.

**2. Easier conditions apply to the entry of dogs, cats and ferrets when travelling from third countries specified in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 577/2013:**

**The serological test for rabies antibodies is not required and entry of animals younger than 12 weeks of age is allowed in case of dogs, cats and ferrets travelling from the following countries or territories:**

Ascension Island, United Arab Emirates, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Aruba, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Barbados, Bahrain, Bermuda, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (the BES Islands), Belarus, Canada, Chile, Curaçao, Fiji, Falkland Islands, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Japan, St. Kitts and Nevis, Cayman Islands, St. Lucia, Montserrat, The former

Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mauritius, Mexico, Malaysia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, St. Pierre et Miquelon, Russia, Singapore, St. Helena, Sint Maarten, Trinidad and Tobago, Taiwan, United States of America (including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands), St. Vincent and the Grenadines, British Virgin Islands, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna.

According to a specific Commission Decision (2006/146/EC) particular conditions have to be met in the case of dogs and cats originating in Malaysia with regard to “Nipah-disease” in addition to those requirements already mentioned.

Andorra, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Greenland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, and Vatican City State are entitled to issue pet passports\*. Animals travelling from these countries may enter the EU accompanied either by the certificate and declaration, or a pet pass.

For dogs, cats and ferrets entering from the above mentioned countries or territories when accompanying travellers the following requirements apply:

## 2. A) Entry

- ✓ Each animal has to be **identified**.
- ✓ Each animal has to be vaccinated against rabies but compliance with the 21 day-period after the basic immunisation is not required or the animal may be younger than 12 weeks and thus not vaccinated against rabies. These points, however, have to be confirmed in the animal health certificate under point II.3 as applicable.
- ✓ For each animal **an animal health certificate and a declaration in accordance with article 25 (3) of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013** have to be presented. This declaration has to be issued in German or English and filled in in BLOCK LETTERS.

## 2. B) Re-entry

- When re-entering with animals originating in Austria or another EU-Member state a **pet pass\*** has to be presented.
- Each animal has to enter **directly** following residency exclusively in one or several of the above-mentioned countries or territories. Where the animal stayed in another country or territory these easier conditions can not be claimed unless
  - a pet pass\* is taken along with the animal containing **also** an entry of a serological test for rabies in addition to the vaccination against rabies, or
  - a **declaration in accordance with article 12 (1)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013** is provided, confirming that the countries or territories not mentioned above where only transited and that during such transit the animal has had no contact with animals of species susceptible to rabies and remained secured within a means of transport or within the perimeter of an international airport. Such declaration has to be provided in German and English.
- Where a pet passport can not be provided for the animal the conditions of point 2. A) have to be complied with.

## 2. C) Entry of dogs, cats and ferrets younger than 12 weeks

Dogs, cats and ferrets younger than 12 weeks may enter into Austria only from third countries specifically named in Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 (please refer to point 2). These animals must comply with the conditions specified under point 2 A) or 2 B). The animal health

certificate must be presented together with a **declaration in accordance with article 25 (3) of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 and a declaration in accordance with article 11 (2) (a) of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013**. The model declarations have been provided for in Annex IV part 3 and Annex I part 1 of Regulation (EU) No 577/2013. These declarations have to be issued in German and English and filled in in BLOCK LETTERS. **Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia and Switzerland currently allow entry of animals younger than 12 weeks.**

## Explanations

### a) Identification

Each animal has to be identified:

After 3 July 2011 animals may only be identified by microchip. Tattoos applied before 3 July 2011 remain valid as long as they are clearly readable. Identification has to take place before anti-rabies vaccination.

### b) Anti-rabies vaccination

For an anti-rabies vaccination deemed to be valid the following conditions have to be complied with:

- The animal has to be vaccinated with an inactivated or a recombinant vaccine against rabies in accordance with the market authorisation of the vaccine in the country of origin.
- The vaccine has to meet the requirements laid down in the Manual (Chapter 2.1.13 of the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals) of the World Organisation for Animal Health.
- The animal has to be at least 12 weeks old at the time of basic immunisation (first vaccination).
- The vaccination has to be carried out by an authorised veterinarian.
- Rabies vaccination is valid only 21 days after finishing the basic immunisation procedure, i.e. with the onset of protection.
- Vaccination remains valid as long as the animal has been re-vaccinated at regular intervals.
- If re-vaccination is carried out only after the expiry of the period established by the market authorisation of the vaccine, this re-vaccination is deemed a basic immunisation and the 21-day period has to be complied with.

### c) Serological test for rabies (titre test)

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. The sampling has to be take place **at least 30 days after** vaccination and **at least three months before** the animal is being moved from the third country. 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.

#### **d) Animal health certificate and declaration**

For each animal an **animal health certificate** as provided for in **Annex IV Part 1 of Regulation (EU) No 577/2013** has to be taken along. A new version of annex IV to Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 has been laid down by Commission Reg. (EU) 2016/561 as from 1 September 2016. All animal health certificates issued after 31 August 2016 have to be issued based on the certificate model in the annex to Commission Reg. (EU) 2016/561.

One certificate may be issued for several animals accompanying the traveller at the same time. The certificate has to be issued by an official veterinarian of the country of provenance in German or English. The certificate may also be issued by an authorised veterinarian, but in this case must be endorsed by the competent authority of the country of dispatch.

The animal health certificate must always be presented together with a **declaration in accordance with article 25 (3) of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013**. A model declaration has been provided for in annex IV part 3 of Regulation (EU) No 577/2013. This declaration has to be issued in German or English and filled in in BLOCK LETTERS. A bilingual model declaration has been published on the website of the Federal Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs (BMGF).

The animal health certificate must not be older than **ten days** at entry into the Union. The animal health certificate may be used as a travel document for travels within the Union for up to **four months**. The four-month period starts at the time of the entry check at the external border of the EU. However, this validity expires once anti-rabies re-vaccination is required or when travelling to an EU-Member state with obligatory treatment for *Echinococcus multilocularis*. Animals under the age of 16 weeks may only be moved to those Member states that allow such movements.

#### **Imports of pets not travelling with tourists:**

These animals are subject to border veterinarian control without exception. Since 29 December 2014, the conditions of Commission Implementing Decision 2013/519/EU apply to the import of dogs, cats and ferrets. The model certificate in accordance with Annex part 1 has to be used.

The respective information leaflet including a model certificate can be found at the following link:

[http://www.bmgf.gv.at/home/Gesundheit/Tiergesundheit/Veterinaerwesen\\_Handel/Ein\\_und\\_Durchfuhr/](http://www.bmgf.gv.at/home/Gesundheit/Tiergesundheit/Veterinaerwesen_Handel/Ein_und_Durchfuhr/) under the title

- ✓ Einfuhr von Hunden, Katzen und Frettchen aus Drittstaaten nach Österreich / Import of dogs, cats, and ferrets from third countries into Austria

Please bear also in mind that there may be import bans or restrictions applicable due to other EU or national legislation, e.g. protection of endangered species (CITES), or customs legislation.

#### **Important links:**

Model declarations (can be filled in online):

[http://www.bmgf.gv.at/home/EN/Health/Information\\_for\\_Travellers/Entry\\_and\\_re\\_entry\\_of\\_pets\\_from\\_third\\_countries\\_to\\_Austria](http://www.bmgf.gv.at/home/EN/Health/Information_for_Travellers/Entry_and_re_entry_of_pets_from_third_countries_to_Austria)

Model certificate:

[http://www.bmgf.gv.at/home/EN/Health/Information\\_for\\_Travellers/Entry\\_and\\_re\\_entry\\_of\\_pets\\_from\\_third\\_countries\\_to\\_Austria](http://www.bmgf.gv.at/home/EN/Health/Information_for_Travellers/Entry_and_re_entry_of_pets_from_third_countries_to_Austria)

List of EU-approved laboratories for serological rabies tests:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/approved-labs/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/approved-labs/index_en.htm)

Legal bases:

Reg. (EU) No 576/2013:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013R0576&from=DE>

Reg. (EU) No 577/2013:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013R0577&from=DE>

amended by Reg. (EU) No 1219/2014:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014R1219&from=DE>

amended by Reg. (EU) 2016/561:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R0561&from=DE>

Further information:

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\* For movements of dogs, cats or ferrets originating in an EU Member state to other EU Member states a standardised document (pet pass, Heimtierausweis) has been laid down. A veterinarian authorised by the competent authority has to certify identification, valid rabies vaccination and – if applicable – a valid re-vaccination as well as a rabies titration test, if applicable, into the pet pass.