



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
VETERINARY SERVICES  
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BARBADOS**



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**CONDITIONS OF A PERMIT CONTROLLING THE IMPORTATION OF A CAT/DOG INTO  
BARBADOS**

**Animals (Diseases and Importation) Act, Cap 253**

**INTRODUCTION**

The rules governing the importation of dogs and cats into Barbados allow pets to enter the island from all countries. For the purpose of implementing the regulations, countries have been divided into two categories; namely:

Category 1: Countries and territories that are rabies free or those that present a low risk with respect to rabies (see the points to note for a list of these countries)

Category 2: All other countries and territories. Animals travelling by sea (e.g. on yachts, cruise ships and cargo vessels) also fall into this category

The import health requirements will differ depending on the category of country; however irrespective of the country of origin and its rabies status, **all dogs and cats entering Barbados must be permanently identified with a microchip (ISO Standard 11784 or Annex A to standard 11785) and must be vaccinated against rabies after microchip implantation.**

**IMPORT PERMIT**

An Import Permit must first be obtained from the Veterinary Services Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management, Barbados. Permits are valid for six (6) months from the date of issue. Application forms are available from the Veterinary Services office or can be downloaded from the Ministry of Agriculture's website at [www.agriculture.gov.bb](http://www.agriculture.gov.bb).

**EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE**

All dogs and cats entering Barbados must be accompanied by an Official Export Health Certificate<sup>1</sup> endorsed (signed and stamped) by the Official Veterinary Services of the country of origin. The certificate must be in English, however where appropriate it may also include the language understood by the certifying veterinarian.

A model certificate is provided in this document, however the exporting country's Official Export Health Certificate may be used provided the required health information is either on it or officially endorsed and attached to it.

The health certificate must contain the following information:

1. Country information: Country of origin, name of competent authority, unique certificate reference number
2. Identification of the animal(s): Microchip number, species, breed, sex and age
3. Origin of the animal(s): Name and address of exporter
4. Destination of the animal(s): Name and address of importer,
5. Health information: vaccinations, laboratory tests and treatments, certification statements
6. Signature, stamp, name and title of official veterinarian,

## HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

### Requirements for Category I countries

To qualify for entry:

1. The pets must be microchipped;
2. the pets must be vaccinated against rabies after the microchip has been implanted;
3. thirty-five (35) days must pass after the rabies vaccination before the pets are eligible to enter Barbados;
4. within seven (7) days of travel, dogs must be treated against ticks and tapeworms;
5. for countries where the following diseases are endemic, the pets must be tested for heartworm, leishmaniasis, nipah virus and/or hendra virus and found to be negative;
6. within seven (7) days of travel, the pets must undergo a veterinary examination and be issued with an Official Veterinary Export Health Certificate.

### Requirements for Category 2 countries:

To qualify for entry:

1. The pets must be microchipped;
2. the pets must be vaccinated against rabies after the microchip has been implanted;
3. thirty (30) days after rabies vaccination, the pets must have a blood test (FAVN rabies antibody titre test) carried out by an approved laboratory, with a result of at least 0.5 IU/ml
4. ninety (90) days must pass after the successful blood sample was taken before the pets are eligible to enter Barbados
5. within seven (7) days of travel, dogs must be treated against ticks and tapeworms;
6. for countries where the following diseases are endemic, the pets must be tested for heartworm, leishmaniasis, nipah virus and/or hendra virus and found negative;
7. within seven (7) days of travel, the pets must undergo a veterinary examination and be issued with an Official Veterinary Export Health Certificate.

### Points to note:

1. Eligibility (pets must have been resident in one or more of these countries or territories for at least 3 months prior to entry):
  - a. **Category 1:** Andorra, Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Ascension Island, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, BES Islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius & Saba), British Virgin Islands, Canada, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Curacao, Dominica, **European Union Member Countries**, Falkland Islands, Faroe Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Greenland, Guam, Guadeloupe, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Iceland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Liechtenstein, Martinique, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montserrat, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, Russian Federation, St. Helena, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten/St. Martin, St. Pierre & Miquelon, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, San Marino, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, US Virgin Islands, Vanuatu, Vatican City State, Wallis & Futuna
  - b. **Category 2:** All other countries and territories.

**NOTE:** For the purposes of this rule, pets resident in a category 1 country for less than 3 months and pets travelling by sea (e.g. yachts, cruise ships, cargo vessels) must comply with the same provisions as pets from Category 2 countries

2. **All pets must clear customs and veterinary checks upon arrival. You will need to employ the services of a customs broker to facilitate customs clearance.**
3. **The Airlines must issue a “Pre-Alert” notifying the relevant parties in Barbados of the pets on board the aircraft.** [Animal (Diseases and Importation Control) Regulations CAP. 253, Section 5].
4. Upon arrival, the animals are taken from the aircraft directly to the Animal Reception Centre for veterinary checks and customs clearance. Pets accompanying passengers in the aircraft cabin must be handed over to the aircraft handling agents upon disembarkation.

5. Once approval has been given for the pet to enter the country, a Customs Officer will apply the relevant duties (as all live animals entering Barbados are recognised as cargo) and the pets can be collected by their owner.
6. **You must give at least three (3) working days' notice of the expected date and time of arrival of the animal. Failure to do so will result in significant delays in getting your pet once it arrives.**  
Contact Veterinary Services at (246) 535-0220; (246)535-0221; Fax: (246) 535-0236; email:[vetservices@agriculture.gov.bb](mailto:vetservices@agriculture.gov.bb) .Please provide the following information:
  - a. Name, address (in Barbados) and contact information of the owner/agent;
  - b. Name and contact information of the Customs broker;
  - c. Date and time of arrival;
  - d. Airline and Flight number or vessel name
7. In addition to Customs duties, Barbados legislation allows for the collection of various fees on the importation of dogs and cats. Animals landed in Barbados outside of Government working hours, 8.15 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday, and on weekends and Bank Holidays are subject to overtime inspection fees.
8. The legal instruments governing the importation of dogs and cats and the charging of fees are the Agricultural, Diagnostic and Other Services (Fees) Order, 2008 and the Animals (Diseases and Importation Control) (Amendment) Regulations, 2014.
9. Under these regulations, fees levied by the Veterinary Services are:
  - a. Import permit application fee: \$25.00
  - b. Landing certificate fee (per animal): \$60.00
  - c. Overtime fees payable to the inspector: \$150.00 – \$300.00 depending on the day and time of arrival/inspection
10. **Failure to satisfy all of the health conditions laid out in the health requirements will result in your pet being refused entry into Barbados**

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## MODEL EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR DOGS AND CATS TO BARBADOS

Country of Export:

Barbados Import Permit Number  Certificate Number:

NAME ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF CONSIGNOR	NAME ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF CONSIGNEE

### I. DESCRIPTION OF ANIMAL(S)

Microchip number <sup>1</sup>	Species	Breed	Sex	Age

### II. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN\*<sup>3,7</sup>

a) After due enquiry I am satisfied that:

- i) the animal listed above has/have been resident in the country of export since birth or continuously for the past three (3) months or has/have been in one or more of the countries listed in Category 1 for the past three (3) months; or
- ii) The animal listed above has not originated from a country listed in Category 1 or has/have not been in the country of origin or a Category 1 country for the past 3 months;

b) The animal is travelling by sea

c) Country of origin of animal(s) (if different from country of export): \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Delete statements not applicable*

### III. RABIES VACCINATION<sup>4,5,6</sup>

I the undersigned declare herewith that I have seen a certificate of vaccination for the animal(s) described in Part I against rabies as shown below.

Microchip Number	Date of vaccination (dd/mm/yy)	Manufacturer and name of vaccine	Batch number	Valid until

### IV. SEROLOGICAL TESTING (Rabies)<sup>7,8</sup>

I the undersigned declare herewith that I have seen an official record of rabies neutralising antibody titration test for the animal(s) described in Part I, carried out at an approved diagnostic laboratory, which states that the result of the test was greater than or equal to 0.5 IU/ml.

Date of sampling (dd/mm/yy)	Name and address of the official diagnostic laboratory	Test result (IU/ml)

### V. OTHER TESTS<sup>9</sup>

I the undersigned declare herewith that either:

- a) The country of origin is free from a) Leishmaniasis\* b) Nipah virus\* c) Hendra virus\* d) Heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*)\*; or
- b) The animal(s) has/have been tested prior to export within the prescribed period<sup>9</sup> for the diseases as listed below with negative results\*:

*\*Delete where not applicable*

Date of test	Type of test	Result

Certificate Number

VI. ANTI-PARASITE TREATMENTS (dogs only)

a) Within seven (7) days of export, the animal(s) was/were treated for ticks with a formulation approved for that purpose

Microchip number	Manufacturer and type of product	Date of treatment

b) Within seven (7) days of export, the animal(s) was/were treated for tapeworms with an anthelmintic containing praziquantel

Microchip number	Manufacturer and type of product	Date of treatment

c) Either\*

(i) The country is free from screwworm, or

(ii) Between twenty-four (24) and forty-eight (48) hours of export, the animal was examined and found free of wounds and screwworm, or

(iii) Between twenty-four (24) and forty-eight (48) hours of export, the animal was examined and all wounds present were cleaned and treated for screwworm

Product: ..... Date and time of treatment .....

*\*Delete statements not applicable*

VII. CLINICAL EXAMINATION<sup>10</sup>

I the undersigned Registered Veterinarian declare herewith that I have examined on the date indicated below the animal(s) described in Part I and have found it/them to be clinically healthy, free from signs of contagious and infectious diseases, including rabies and external parasites and fit to travel.

Signature of Issuing Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Official Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Official Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_

*Not valid unless endorsed by an Official Veterinarian*

OFFICIAL STAMP

## NOTES FOR GUIDANCE ON COMPLETING THE HEALTH CERTIFICATE

1. The Official Health Certificate must be endorsed (signed and stamped) by an **Official Government/Federal Veterinarian**. This may not be the same veterinarian who carries out the procedures and/or fills out the health certificate. The Official Veterinarian should see the import permit before issuing the Export Health Certificate. *Please note that EU Pet Passports are for intra-European Union travel only and, though they may accompany the pet, will not be accepted as an Official Health Certificate.*
2. Microchips: Only ISO standard microchips should be used. The identification number stated in the certificate must be identical to that which can be found on the animal. All supporting certificates (rabies vaccination, laboratory test results) should bear the microchip number. The certifying veterinarian must be able to verify the microchip number before signing the certificate.
3. Residency: Cats and dogs from Category 1 countries must demonstrate that they have spent at least three (3) months continuously either in the country of export or in other Category 1 countries immediately prior to entry. This three (3) month period may be partly in the country of export and partly in another Category 1 country. If the latter is the case, the certifying veterinarian must be able to verify this prior to signing the certificate. All animals that do not fall into Category 1, including pets that have not been in a Category 1 country for more than 3 months and animals arriving by sea must satisfy the conditions for Category 2
4. Rabies vaccination: The animal must be implanted with a microchip **before or at the time of vaccination against rabies**. Only inactivated virus vaccines manufactured in compliance with the recommendations of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Manual should be used. The validity of the vaccine is according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
5. The vaccination should have been carried out when the animal was at least three (3) months old. In the case of a booster vaccination, the booster must have been administered on or before the date of expiry of the previous vaccine.
6. There is a wait of **thirty-five (35) days** from the date of administration of a primary rabies vaccination or revaccination of an expired or missed rabies booster vaccination before your dog or cat is eligible to enter Barbados. *If the vaccine manufacturer's data sheet requires more than one vaccination to complete the primary course of vaccinations, the 35 day wait applies from the date of the final vaccination of that course. The day of vaccination counts as day 0.*
7. Animals being imported from a Category 2 country or those arriving by sea, irrespective of the country of origin, must be tested for rabies antibodies at an approved laboratory and must show an acceptable titre result.
8. Rabies serology test: A list of approved laboratories may be found at the following websites: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/approval\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/approval_en.htm) or <http://www.who-rabies-bulletin.org/travel/Laboratories.aspx>. The type of rabies serological test approved for international travel is the Fluorescent Antibody Virus Neutralisation (FAVN) test. The test must be conducted a minimum of thirty (30) days after vaccination. In the case of a failed test result (less than 0.5 IU/ml), the animal must be revaccinated and retested before entry can be allowed.
9. Testing for other diseases: for countries where heartworm disease, leishmaniasis, hendra virus or nipah virus are endemic, the animals for export must be tested prior to export using the following protocols:
  - a. Heartworm testing within thirty (30) days of export (not applicable to cats or to dogs less than six (6) months of age): ELISA antigen tests such as the IDEXX® SNAP® test kit may be used. If the ELISA test is positive or if the animal was previously treated for heartworm, then the modified Knott's test may be carried out to demonstrate the absence of microfilaraemia
  - b. Leishmaniasis: Indirect Fluorescent Antibody Test (IFAT) or Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) within six (6) months of export
  - c. Hendra virus (cats only): ELISA test within seven (7) days of export
  - d. Nipah virus: ELISA test within fourteen (14) days of export, **AND** the animals must originate from a region free of Nipah virus
10. The export health certificate is valid for a period of 10 days from the date of issue by the Official Veterinarian. In the case of animals travelling by sea, validity can be extended for the period of the voyage.