



Dandenong Veterinary Hospital

"The Caring Professional Team"

118 Princes Highway, Dandenong, 3175
9792 4787

INTERNATIONAL PET TRAVEL

Thank you for trusting our **export-preparation experience** here at Dandenong Veterinary Hospital for the preparation of your pet on their international journey. This handout is intended as a guide, to assist your understanding of the pre-export requirements that your pet may have to fulfil before departing Australia.

Landing Page: <http://www.dvh.com.au/overseas-pet-travel/>



For further information, you may wish to visit the government website,

<https://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export/controlled-goods/live-animals/companion>

To get an idea of the specific requirements for your chosen destination country, you can visit the AQIS website link know as MICoR. Scroll down to the FILTER options at the bottom and simply select the country of destination and the species you are intending to import (dog, cat etc).

<http://micor.agriculture.gov.au/live-animals/Pages/default.aspx>

OVERVIEW

Sourced and edited from the [Department of Agriculture, Water & Environment Resources](#) website

1. Consult an experienced veterinarian, familiar with companion animal export preparations

One of our veterinarians will need to discuss the export process and the importing country's requirements and arrange an appointment for the relevant treatments/inspection and documentation to be completed. This initial contact must be made **well in advance** of the intended date of export, as some countries require that animals receive a rabies vaccination at least 30 days before the date of departure and Import Permits must be obtained for entry of animals to some countries.

At the time of export, all animals should be up-to-date with their routine vaccinations, and should be recently treated for internal and external parasites.

If there is any likelihood that your pet will be returning to Australia, it is imperative that you discuss this with AQIS as early as possible. If you wish to re-import your pet within six months of export, preparations must be made prior to leaving Australia.

Please visit: <https://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/cats-dogs/cats-dogs-returning-to-australia>

2. Complying with the importing country's requirements

The exporter (you) is responsible for ensuring that the animal(s) will comply with the importing country's requirements at the time of export.

To obtain information on the preparation and health requirements for the species of animal being exported it may be necessary to:

- visit the official website of the relevant government authority for the destination country
- directly contact the relevant government authority by phone, post or email to obtain the latest import requirements in writing. The country's embassy in Australia may also be able to assist.

3. Forward to AQIS a 'Notice of Intention to Export' (NOI)

Complete a 'Notice of Intention to Export' form and return, by fax or mail, to the Melbourne AQIS office shown below. This notice must be received at least 10 days before the scheduled date of departure. See weblink below and click for a downloadable form version:



Weblink: <https://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export/controlled-goods/live-animals/companion/notice-intention-live-animals>

SE Region Animal Program
1st floor, 255 Melrose Drive
Tullamarine, VICTORIA 3043

PHONE: 1800 900 090
seanimal@awe.gov.au

4. Make an appointment with AQIS to collect the official documentation

After the completion of all tests, treatments, inspections etc by the registered veterinarian, contact the above AQIS office (at least 10 days before the scheduled date of export) to make an appointment to pick-up the Export Permit and Health Certificate. At the time of writing, appointments are available from **08:30am to 12:30pm, Monday to Friday**.

Once the additional final veterinary inspection has been completed by the accredited veterinarian (usually within 48, or rarely 72, hours of export), attend the AQIS office at the appointed time to collect the official Export Permit and Health Certificate (*do not bring your animal to the office*). At this time, present all documentation that has been completed by the AQIS-accredited veterinarian, together with any other required documents (eg Import Permits if required, vaccination certificates). Based on this documentation, the AQIS Certifying Government Veterinary Officer will determine whether the animals have qualified for export. If all the necessary pre-export preparations have been completed as required by the importing country and in compliance with AQIS legislation, AQIS will issue the relevant export documentation.

AQIS will charge a fee for the issue of an Export Permit and Official Health Certificate. This is a service-based fee. For current rates, visit: <https://www.awe.gov.au/about/fees/charging-guidelines>

5. Organise transport of the animal

Separate arrangements must be made with the airline for carriage of the animals. Some airlines require lodgement of animals by known agents such as animal transport companies. Please check with the airline. Animal transport containers must comply with the specifications of the International Air Transport Association, which defines container design, construction and size. The container must be of sufficient size to allow each animal enough space to turn about normally while standing, to stand and sit erect, and to lie in a natural position. Try contacting your airline or pet transport companies (Yellow Pages Telephone Directory) whom can provide further details. Most pet transport companies also sell crates for international carriage of animals.



OTHER ADVICE



- Dandenong Veterinary Hospital has assisted thousands of pet owners all over Melbourne prepare for taking a pet overseas. **Our experience is vital** to providing you with **peace of mind** that the preparations necessary shall be undertaken with the **utmost care to avoid costly errors** that less-experienced operators could make.
- We recommend that you arrange your flight to depart on a Tuesday through to Friday (and therefore not Saturday, Sunday or Monday). Why?
 - The AQIS office is not open on weekends to issue export and health certificates.
 - To ensure availability of an AQIS-accredited veterinarian for the ‘within 48 hour’ pre-export check (weekdays).
- Avoid arranging your travel plans close to public holiday dates. Public holidays mean reduced access to services, and could lead to delays with blood test results and/or official paperwork.
- Carefully plan the timing of your 48 hour pre-export check, the AQIS office visit and your flight departure requirements. Remember the AQIS office appointment book closes at 12:30pm, and delays can be stressful.



- We do not recommend that you attempt to “compress” the recommended time periods for scheduled visits prior to export. Some preparation periods are *requirements* and cannot be compressed. It can be stressful for you if you are trying to compress recommended preparation period. AQIS accredited veterinarians unfortunately cannot make a laboratory work faster or speed up Australia Post in the delivery of original paperwork. These are out of our control.
- All pets, regardless of the import country’s requirements, need to be microchipped prior to travel.
- Should your pet require a BLOOD TEST at our veterinary hospital, please ensure an 8 to 12 hour fast (no access to food) prior to the appointment with us. Water access is fine.
- Pets that leave Australia immediately lose their Australian health status. If there is *any possibility* that your pet may return to Australia, to avoid potentially long delays (as much as six months), preparations should be made BEFORE you leave. Please visit:
- <https://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/cats-dogs/cats-dogs-returning-to-australia>

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