


Per the USDA & Japanese Quarantine

As of 26 March, 2024:

For all pets other than those listed* below to Japan, USDA Accredited Veterinarians may issue health certificates electronically through the online Veterinary Export Health Certification System ([VEHCS](#)). These certificates will be digitally endorsed by APHIS once received in the system and available for printing by the USDA Accredited Veterinarian once the endorsement is completed by APHIS. An APHIS-endorsed, printed paper copy **must** accompany the shipment.

Health certificates for the types of pets listed* below, may be submitted by the USDA Accredited Veterinarian through [VEHCS](#); however, the APHIS Veterinary Medical Officer's ink (wet) signature with the application of the APHIS embossed seal must appear on the health certificate. Certificates received by APHIS through the VEHCS system will be printed and endorsed in our offices, and the hard copy will be returned when complete. This APHIS-endorsed and embossed paper copy **must** accompany the shipment.

- * Pet Birds
- Pet Ferrets

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#) 



U.S. ARMY JAPAN



(<http://www.usarj.army.mil/>)
Home (<http://www.usarj.army.mil/>) : Units : Public Health Activity - Japan (<http://www.usarj.army.mil/units/vet/>) : Pet Import

DOG IMPORT DISCLAIMER

In accordance with Army policy, domestic animals on army installations, residents, employees, contractors, or visitors may not bring on any installation, any dog or a breed (including mixed breed) that is deemed aggressive/dangerous or potentially aggressive/dangerous.

For purposes of this policy, Aggressive/dangerous or potentially aggressive/dangerous breeds of dogs are defined as

Pit Bulls (American Staffordshire, Bull Terriers, or English Staffordshire Bull Terriers), Rottweilers, Doberman Pinschers, Chows and Wolf hybrids.

U.S. Personnel who own one of the above breeds cannot bring their pets to Mainland Japan or Okinawa.

Exotic pets are also prohibited.

Importing Dogs and Cats

- Japan discourages the importation of dogs and cats under the age of 12 months. These pets rarely meet the vaccination and FAVN testing requirements. Pets under the age of 12 months can be imported but must start with a 180 day quarantine period.
- All dogs and cats must FIRST be implanted with a microchip prior to receiving any vaccinations and FAVN testing. The microchip number must be included on the rabies and health certificates and on the Fluorescent Antibody Viral Neutralization (FAVN) Results form.
- All dogs and cats arriving from a non-rabies free country or area must be vaccinated twice at least 31 days apart with an inactivated rabies vaccine at least 30 days and not more than 12 months prior to arriving and must show a history of 2 rabies vaccinations.
- All dogs and cats must have a Fluorescent Antibody Viral Neutralization (FAVN) Test performed. This test measures the protective antibody level against rabies.
- All dogs and cats must have a health and rabies certificate issued by a Military Veterinarian. A USDA Federal Veterinarian must certify with a raised seal all certificates issued by civilian veterinarians.
- All dogs and cats must give prior notification to the Japan Animal Quarantine Service as soon as commercial transportation is scheduled.
- For detailed information, please print the following information document:

Japan Pet Requirements Memo (</Portals/33/organization/vet/doc/Web%20-%20Pet%20Import%20Memo.pdf>)

The "Ideal" Timeline (/Portals/33/organization/vet/doc/Pet_import_timeline.pdf)

Flowchart for pet preparation for importation into Japan (/Portals/33/organization/vet/doc/Pet_import_flowchart.pdf)

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Dog and Cat Processing Summary for Entry into Japan

1. Microchip

- a. ALL pets entering Japan MUST have a valid identification microchip implanted.
- b. Japan requires International Standards Organization (ISO) [15 numbers] or ISO compatible microchips [10 numbers and no letters or other characters].
- c. If the implanted microchip is not ISO or ISO compatible, the Government of Japan Animal Quarantine Service (GOJ AQS) will require the importer to provide a compatible reader to confirm the microchip number.
- d. The microchip must be implanted prior to the first rabies vaccine to validate all vaccines and blood tests done for importation.¹
- e. Be sure to have the number accurately written down on all documentation.

2. Rabies Vaccinations²

- a. These MUST be inactivated or killed virus vaccines to be accepted.
- b. The two most recent vaccinations must have been given at least 30 days apart.
- c. The second of the two most recent vaccinations must have been given before the first vaccination expired (i.e. within the one year or three year window depending on the vaccine manufacturer's guidelines).
- d. The arrival date in Japan must be before the most recent vaccination expires.
- e. Both of these must be done after the microchip.
- f. The pet must be at least 91 days old for the first vaccination.

¹ A pet that is rabies vaccinated prior to microchip implantation *may* be able to have it validated via a FAVN test. Please see the April 2010 Exception schematics for further details (http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/doc/Pet_import_timeline.pdf). When in doubt do not hesitate to contact the receiving installation veterinarian. Failure to follow the guidelines may result in an extended quarantine.

² If the pet has lived in Iceland, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii or Guam for at least 180 days prior to flying directly to Japan, then rabies vaccinations and a FAVN are not required.

Dog and Cat Processing Summary for Entry into Japan

g. Rabies vaccines given at a military Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF), and documented on DD Form 2208, are considered valid.

3. FAVN (Fluorescent Antibody Viral Neutralization) Test

- a. This MUST be done after microchip implantation and both rabies vaccinations given.
- b. FAVN may be drawn the same day as the second rabies vaccine per GOJ AQS regulations. For best results, both approved laboratories recommend waiting a minimum of 21 days after the second rabies vaccination before drawing the FAVN.
- c. The sample must be taken before the most recent vaccination expires (i.e. within the one year or three year window).
- d. To avoid quarantine, the arrival date in Japan must be between 180 days and two years after the sampling date.
- e. A passing level of ≥ 0.5 IU/mL must be documented.
- f. The following are the two approved laboratories:

i. DoD Food Analysis and Diagnostics

PHCR-South

ATTN: Food Analysis Lab

2899 Schofield Road, Suite 2630

JBSA Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-7583

U.S. Phone: (210) 295-4604

DSN: (312) 421-4604

U.S. Fax: (210) 295-4612

Sample Receiving Area: (210) 295-4210

Email: rabies@ln.amedd.army.mil or rabies.favn@amedd.army.mil

Website:

<http://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/labsciences/fad/Pages/default.aspx>

ii. Kansas State University Rabies Laboratory

2005 Research Park Circle

Manhattan, KS 66502

U.S. Phone: (785) 532-4483

U.S. Fax: (785) 532-4474/4522

Website: <http://www.ksvdl.org/rabies-laboratory/>

Email: rabies@vet.k-state.edu

Dog and Cat Processing Summary for Entry into Japan

4. Advance Notification

a. The GOJ AQS requires a notification form be sent to the pet's port of entry 40 days prior to travel if traveling on a commercial airline. This step is NOT required for animals traveling on military air (MILAIR). In most cases, if traveling on a commercial airline, your initial port of entry is Narita Airport. If you do not have your flight information, the GOJ AQS recommends sending the notification with as much information as possible with an estimated date of entry.

b. The form can be found on the GOJ AQS website at:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/import-other.html>

i. Dog: <http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/pdf/notification-dog.pdf>

ii. Cat: <http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/pdf/notification-cat.pdf>

c. Use the following to help you to fill out the forms:

i. Examples:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/pdf/notifi-dogcat-en.pdf>

ii. Ports of Entry contact information:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/contactus.html>

iii. In the "Remarks" Section of this form, state "This pet belongs to a US SOFA sponsored family and will be assigned to (list duty site)."

d. Once your travel plans are finalized, you may contact your port of entry with the updated information on a modification form.

i. Website: <http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/contactus.html>

ii. Modification Form:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/pdf/modnotification.pdf>

5. Health Certificate

a. GOJ AQS recommends that this be obtained within two days of travel, but no more than ten days prior to travel.

b. Military Veterinarians (VCO and GS) should use the Form MDJ OP 2209 (http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/doc/MDJ_Form_2209_20110901.pdf). With this form there is no requirement for further endorsement or Forms A & C.

Dog and Cat Processing Summary for Entry into Japan

c. Civilian Veterinarians (including NAF) must be USDA accredited and are required to use the APHIS 7001 and GOJ AQS Forms A & C:

APHIS Form 2001: (<http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/doc/APHIS7001.pdf>)

GOJ AQS Form A:

(http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/doc/Certificate_FormA041126.pdf)

GOJ AQS Form C:

(http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/doc/Certificate_FormC100415.pdf)

i. The state USDA Veterinary Services Area Office MUST endorse APHIS 7001 and Forms A & C, with a raised seal. For a list of state USDA offices go to: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/banner/help?1dmy&urile=wcm%3apath%3a%2Faphis_content_library%2Fsa_our_focus%2Fsa_animal_health%2Fsa_contact_us%2Fsa_map%2Fct_state_contacts_map

ii. Although the APHIS 7001 is valid for 30 days, the GOJ AQS will only recognize it if it was issued within 10 days of travel. A supplemental APHIS 7001 may be issued without USDA endorsement, to cover the travel period, as long as the dates for the endorsed copy is still valid.

iii. Rabies certificates must be submitted to the state USDA office along with the health certificate for review. However, a raised seal endorsement by the USDA is not required.

6. Additional Forms and Documents

a. The GOJ AQS recommends that an additional Export Declaration form be filled out by the pet's veterinarian with USDA endorsement. It can be found at: <http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/pdf/CertificateA041126.pdf>

b. Have additional copies of the Permanent Change of Station Orders ready to verify SOFA status.

c. If the pet is travelling separately on a commercial flight as a freight, then the airline carrier will likely issue an "air waybill" or air consignment note. It is recommended that you maintain additional copies.

d. If the pet is traveling with someone other than the SOFA status service member or dependents, then a power of attorney authorizing that individual is required.

Dog and Cat Processing Summary for Entry into Japan

7. Quarantine in Japan

- a. The GOJ AQS requires that any pet that enters Japan without having completed the 180 day waiting period, following FAVN sampling, will need to complete that period at a GOJ quarantine facility or an approved kennel. Some of the kennels located on the US military bases have been approved by the GOJ AQS for this purpose. The service member must contact the kennel prior to arrival to determine if it is approved and to make arrangements for boarding.
- b. The GOJ AQS has allowed an exception ONLY for those SOFA status personnel residing on US military bases. In this exception, a pet may complete the quarantine “at home” as long as that pet does not interact with animals other than those in the same household and does not leave the military base until cleared from quarantine at the local VTF³. Whether a service member is placed in housing that allows pets is at the discretion of the gaining installation.
- c. Any fees incurred for pet travel and quarantine are the sole responsibility of the service member.

8. Arrival in Japan

- a. All pets MUST check into the local military VTF within 72 business hours of arrival regardless of port of entry (commercial or military). This is when the pet will be registered at the VTF and the quarantine status recorded.
- b. Pets on quarantine MUST return to the local VTF for quarantine checks:
 - i. One month after arrival, and
 - ii. On the final quarantine date or six months after arrival, whichever comes first.
- c. Failure to comply with quarantine check procedures may result in:
 - i. Suspension of privileges at the local VTF, and
 - ii. Fines imposed by the GOJ.

³ If the local military VTF is on a separate installation, then the pet may travel from one installation to the installation where a VTF is located.

Dog and Cat Processing Summary for Entry into Japan

9. Traveling from Rabies Free Countries

- a. Iceland, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii or Guam ONLY
- b. The pet must have lived in one of these locations:
 - i. Since birth, or
 - ii. For at least 180 days prior to flying directly to Japan, or
 - iii. Has been kept in the location since being directly imported from Japan.
- c. If these requirements are satisfied, then the pet only requires a microchip, official health certificate and advance notification.

10. Exporting

- a. The GOJ AQS requires that pets leaving Japan be inspected at the local GOJ AQS office in addition to any veterinary visits. The forms can be found at:
 - i. Overview: <http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/export.html>
 - ii. Dog: <http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/pdf/applicationex-dog.pdf>
 - iii. Cat: <http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/pdf/applicationex-cat.pdf>
- b. If the pet is to return to Japan at a later date, then all of the above requirements still apply and must be kept up to date. Otherwise, the pet will be subject to quarantine.

11. Airlines

Each airline has its own requirements for travel and pet transportation, so it is important to contact your commercial airline carrier or MILAIR representative (Air Mobility Command) for any additional information.

Pet Processing Checklist

Microchip (*THIS MUST BE DONE FIRST!*): ISO or ISO compatible chip.

(HomeAgain® and AVID® microchips are acceptable). *Include the microchip number on the subsequent rabies and health certificate and FAVN test result form.*

Rabies Vaccinations (INACTIVATED): Most recent vaccination certificate.

- Complete history of two vaccinations..**AFTER MICROCHIPPING**.
- Most recent vaccination given not less than 30 days and not more than 12 months.
- Given in series (not less than 30 days between vaccinations) and within their recognized life-span (ie. 1 year vaccine versus a 3 year rabies vaccine) to be considered valid.

Florescent Antibody Viral Neutralization (FAVN) Test: (Results make take up to three weeks)

- **AFTER MICROCHIPPING AND 2 RABIES VACCINATIONS (INACTIVATED)**
- *A passing level ≥ 0.5 IU/ml.*
- Sent to an approved Laboratory:

DoD Veterinary Food Analysis and Diagnostic Laboratory PHCR-South 2899 Schofield Rd., Building 2630 Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-7583 Phone: (210) 295-4605/4010/4387 FAX: (210) 270-2559	Kansas State University Rabies Laboratory 1800 Denison Avenue Manhattan, KS 66506 Phone: (785) 532-4483 FAX: (785) 532-4522
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Advance Notification: Send notification to Port of entry Animal Quarantine Service as soon as travel arrangements are known **AND AFTER THE FIRST 3 STEPS**.

- Receive Notification Approval
- Advance Notification Form:
PHCD-J Website:
http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/r_doc.aspx or
MAFF Website: <http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/index.html>
- Ports of Entry contact information: <http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/contactus.html>

Health Certificate: Obtain within 10 days of arrival.

- **Military Veterinarians may use the MDJ OP 2209 (without USDA Certification)**
- **Civilian Veterinarians: require USDA Certification from a Federal USDA Veterinarian** (http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices/) ; form is valid for 30 days, however, a second 10-day health certificate may be required for the airlines.

Both health and rabies certificates must be endorsed with raised seals.

Age Requirement: Japan discourages importation of dogs and cats < 12 months old. These steps represent the earliest and quickest timeline for puppies and kittens:

- Microchip and Vaccination at ≥ 91 days old.
- Vaccination at ≥ 121 days old.
- FAVN test at ≥ 151 days old.