

IMPORTATION OF CATS AND DOGS

(Issued in accordance with the Animal and Plant Biosecurity Act 2014)

Seychelles has a highly favorable animal health status and is free of a number of diseases of cats and dogs. In order to protect this status, any animal that is being imported into the Republic of Seychelles must undergo a period of quarantine upon arrival in the country. This quarantine period allows the Veterinary Services to monitor the health and become aware of any disease concerns of any animal prior to release. The length of the quarantine period is determined by the animal(s)' health and Rabies status of the country of origin.

A Veterinary Import Permit is a MUST for all cats and dogs entering the Seychelles. A formal application for a Veterinary Import Permit should be made in writing to the following address:

Chief Officer
Biosecurity and Border Control Section
Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment
P.O. Box 464, Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles
Tel: (+248) 4303366
Email: enquiry@nba.gov.sc

1.0 The Application

1.1 The attached application form should be completed and must contain the owner's address, the month which the animal is intended to be imported, the animal particulars (species, breed, sex, age, name, description and microchip number) and vaccination records against the following diseases

Animal Species	Types of Vaccines				
Cat	Rabies*	Feline panleucopenia	Feline rhinotracheitis	Feline calicivirus	
Dog	Rabies*	Canine distemper	Canine parvovirus	Infectious canine hepatitis	Leptospirosis

All vaccinations must be done not less than two (2) weeks prior to the date of departure.

****For rabies vaccination, please refer to clause 5.0 below.***

2.0 Eligibility

Cat/dog must be at least sixteen (16) weeks of age.

- 2.1** There is no restriction in the type of dog or cat breeds that can enter the country, however, dogs of certain breeds and their crosses (as per the attached list in annex 1), should be surgically sterilized prior to entry into the country. Copy of the sterilization certificate signed by a qualified Veterinary Surgeon and endorsed by an official Veterinarian, must be produced upon application of the Veterinary Import Permit. The original of this document **MUST** accompany the animal upon arrival.

3.0 Veterinary Import Permit

- 3.1** Once the Veterinary Services receives all the necessary information, the permit shall be issued within 7 working days with a validity of one (1) month from the date of the intended arrival.
- 3.2** Upon receipt of the Veterinary Import Permit, the client should request for an Import Permit from the Ministry of Finance to facilitate clearing of the animal upon arrival. Please bear in mind that there are Custom and Air Seychelles handling fee to be paid at the airport upon arrival. These are additional and must be settled separately to veterinary fees.

4. Language and Documents

All documents produced should be in either in English and or French. All documents not in these two languages should be translated into English or French, signed and stamped by the relevant Veterinary Authority of the Exporting Country

5. Rabies

Rabies has never been reported in the Seychelles and no routine vaccination against Rabies has been carried out. Therefore, it is advisable, that for all owners who plan to repatriate their animals back to the country of origin, to have the animals vaccinated and tested against rabies prior to entry into Seychelles.

5.1 Rabies affected countries

Animals originating from Rabies affected countries must show proof of valid vaccination record and the owner must attach the RNATT test results upon application for an import permit, subject to the following conditions:

- 5.1.1 The cat/dog must have a valid rabies vaccination record. The rabies vaccination must have been done with an inactivated vaccine when at least three (3) months**

of age. In the case of a booster vaccination against rabies, that should be done thirty (30) days and no more than twelve (12) months prior to export.

5.1.2 The cat/dog must be accompanied by a Rabies Neutralization Antibody Titre Test (NRATT) with result > 0.5 IU. The test must have been performed at least one month after the primo vaccination and not more than six (6) months prior to departure.

5.1.3 The blood for the RNATT must be drawn at least 30 days after the rabies vaccination.

5.1.4 The cat/dog will be eligible for travel only 3 months after the blood has been drawn for testing. That is providing the RNATT is > 0.5 IU.

5.1.5 A copy of the Rabies vaccination certificate and the RNATT result must be provided in the application for the import permit

5.1.6 A minimum of 4 weeks' quarantine is required for countries with rabies history

N.B:

If the cat/dog does not meet the conditions stated above, it will have to undergo a minimum six (6) months post arrival quarantine or returned to the country of origin at the importer's expense

6. Additional test Dogs

Before dogs can be imported the dog needs to be certified free from the following five diseases by means of blood tests. The tests should be performed in accredited lab and according to the OIE manual. 7.

Disease

- ***Brucella canis***
- ***Trypanosoma evansi***
- ***Babesia gibsoni***
- ***Leishmania***
- ***Ehrlichia canis***

If the Veterinary Authorities of the exporting country can certify that the exporting country is free from some of the above mentioned diseases, then the dogs exported to Seychelles do not need to have blood tests done for the disease that the exporting country is free from.

7.1 Countries free from the above stated diseases should provide an endorsed attestation from the Official Veterinarian.

7.2 The Veterinary Services require the following test or tests to be used for the above mentioned five diseases

<i>Brucella canis</i>	serum agglutination / rapid slide agglutination test
<i>Trypanosoma evansi</i>	card agglutination test and giemsa blood smear
<i>Babesia Gibsoni</i>	Immunofluorescence antibody test & giemsa blood smear
<i>Leishmaniosis</i>	Indirect fluorescent antibody or ELISA or Direct agglutination test or Western blot/membrane immunoassay
<i>Ehrlichia canis</i>	Indirect fluorescent antibody test

8. Post Arrival Quarantine

By law, ALL animals entering the Seychelles are subjected to quarantine. A minimum post arrival quarantine of 14 days will be imposed on ALL animals independently of the country Rabies status. There is only one facility on Mahé for the quarantine of imported pets and it is advisable to book well in advance.

Before a quarantine booking can be confirmed, the importer must sign an indemnity form. Copies of the indemnity form will be attached to the permit application. The original signed indemnity form needs to be handed in at the quarantine station while a scanned copy is emailed during application. Bookings at the quarantine stations will only be confirmed on receipt of the signed indemnity form.

Animals belonging to the same owner can be housed in the same kennel if the owner wishes to do so. Please bear in mind that occupation of extra kennel carries an additional fee.

9. Animal arrivals

No animal should be shipped unless shippers have confirmation in writing that import is permitted and the conditions stated on Seychelles Veterinary Import Permit have been complied with.

Reconfirmation of quarantine booking should be done at **least 2 weeks prior to arrival. Confirmation of arrival should be done 24 hours prior to entry.** This facilitates quarantine booking arrangement and avoids overbooking of the kennels at any one time.

All animals must travel as manifest cargo, preferably by a direct flight or an approved scheduled flight and must not make contact with any other animals at any point en route.

All animals must be transported in a container in accordance to the IATA's regulations on the transportation of live animals.

Arrangement is made for animals to be collected at the airport by a Veterinary Officer. Please bear in mind that there are a number of formalities that must be completed before the animal(s) can be taken

to the quarantine station and it is always preferable that the owner or someone responsible for the animal(s) be present at the time as there are handling fees that need settling at cargo/custom offices.

Staff will always endeavor to get the animal(s) to the station in the shortest time practicable.

10. Visiting hours and feeding during quarantine

Clients can visit and interact with their animals during their stay in quarantine. Visiting hours: **09:00 – 18:00 hours** daily.

The owner must provide food for the animals during their stay in quarantine.

Please bear in mind that NO animal is allowed outside the quarantine building at any given time. The animals are allocated a special area inside the building itself where they can be walked. Should an owner have any particular concern regarding the voiding patterns of their animal (s), this should be discussed with the Veterinary Officer in charge.

Visits outside the above stated visiting hours are strictly prohibited. Should an owner be unable to visit his/her animal during the designated visiting hours, he/she must liaise with the Veterinary Officer in charge and/or the kennel staff, who might be able to make special arrangements for the feeding of his/her animal.

Please bear in mind that only owners and authorized persons are allowed at the quarantine station. Visits are limited to only 2 visitors per animal or animals at any one time.

11. Veterinary attendance for animals whilst in quarantine

Immediately upon arrival, a veterinary officer will examine the animal and it will be closely monitored throughout its stay at the quarantine station. Veterinary officers only investigate exotic disease symptoms.

Please note that veterinary bills for any treatment undertaken are not included in the quarantine fees and bears an additional cost.

In the event that an animal requires urgent veterinary attention, the Veterinary Services will make every attempt to contact the owner before administering any medication.

12. Medicating animals whilst in Quarantine

The importation of chronically ill animals is strongly discouraged.

If your pet has any veterinary problems or requires medication (e.g. diabetes/ epilepsy) please notify the Veterinary Services so that authorization can be granted for the importation of such drugs that may not be available locally.

The Veterinary Services only provide basic care to healthy animals, and in some cases, basic medication to those with stable illnesses.

Please note: The Small Animal Clinic services are provided during the span of core hours (08:00 – 16:00) Owners of animals who require the administration of therapeutics at regular intervals e.g.: epileptic/diabetic animals should discuss alternative treatment intervals prior to importation and will incur additional costs.

13. Stress

Owners should take into account of the age and actual health condition of their animals as well as travel and climatic stress before deciding to export their dogs/cats to Seychelles.

N.B: The Veterinary Services will not be held liable to any loss of any form due to the above mentioned.

In the unfortunate event that an animal happens to die en route, necessary arrangement will be made by the Veterinary Services to dispose of the body according to the policies in place.

A post mortem examination may be carried out at the request of the owner but is not mandatory.

14. Fees

Quarantine fee is SR/1000.00 for a two (2) week period only, which consists of the Import Permit, Collection and Transportation fee and kennelling fee. For animals of the same owner, there will be an extra SR/500 per kennel for the two weeks. Should there be an extension in the quarantine period, for any reason whatsoever, there is an additional fee of SR500 per week (or SR100 per day) for any animal.

All importers having had their animal travelled as manifest cargo must settle all fees at the cargo department and proof of payment must be shown prior to quarantine release.

Note: If an animal is due for release on a weekend or public holiday please ensure that all fees due are settled on a business day prior, as payment cannot be taken on a weekend.

15. Canine Heartworm

Please note that heartworm disease of dogs is endemic in Seychelles. Heartworm is caused by the microorganism, *Dirofilaria immitis* and is spread by mosquitoes. The larvae migrate to the heart and develop into worms over a period of about 6 months. No testing or treatment is required for importation into Seychelles but it is strongly advisable to know the heartworm status of your dog before any prevention can be initiated.

Drug is available to prevent heartworm disease at the Veterinary Clinic. For dogs that have never been exposed to heartworm, there is at least a four months window during which preventative treatment can be safely started. For most dogs there is no need for treatment during quarantine (*unless the dog is undergoing six (6) months quarantine.*)

16. Animal departures

Owners are responsible for the collection of their animals from the Quarantine station at the end of the quarantine period. Please bear in mind that it is the responsibility of the owner to make all the travelling arrangement for their animal(s) post quarantine.

If the owner is unable to pick up his/her animal on their release date, he/she must contact the station prior to the specified release date and inform the Veterinary Officer in charge.

All of these conditions must be clearly understood prior to importing an animal into the Seychelles. Failure to comply will result in the return of the animal to country of origin or worst be euthanized, all at the owner's cost.

For clarifications, clients are advised to contact the Veterinary Office at Orion Mall on Telephone Number (+248 4324000).

Email: to Chief Officer, Mr. Randy Stravens: RStravens@nba.gov.sc