

Non-commercial importation into the European Union of pet animals arriving from third countries

**Pet animals imported from third countries are subject to checks by customs officers at all passenger entry points.**

**On arrival, their owners are obliged to declare their pets to Customs for those checks.**

**Domestic carnivores are major vectors for rabies, which continues to constitute a health risk.**

**Rabies is a disease communicable to human beings and death is unavoidable once the symptoms appear.**

**All cases of rabies in France are due to animals infected abroad.**

**A - Conditions for importation of dogs, cats and ferrets (five or fewer in number unless a derogation has been obtained \*):**

- identification by electronic chip (tattoos are admissible if prior to 03/07/2011);
- valid anti-rabies vaccination: from 21 days after injection, on animals aged at least 12 weeks. To be recognised as valid, vaccination must always be carried out following identification.
- serological testing for rabies antibody titration of 0.5 UI/ml or greater. Samples to be taken from 30 days after vaccination and at least three months before importation (unless the animal comes from a listed country – cf. Annex II of regulation (EU) 577/2013). Testing must be carried out by a laboratory approved by the European Union.

Important note: Titration is valid for the entire life of the animal on condition of booster vaccinations at appropriate intervals. The time period of three months does not therefore apply on re-entry to the EU if titration has been carried out prior to departure with favourable results and if the booster vaccinations against rabies have been correctly performed at the required intervals during the animal's stay in the third country.

- an original animal health certificate (cf. Annex IV of regulation (EU) 577/2013) issued or stamped by an official veterinarian in the third country of origin with a validity of ten days after issuance (if re-entering the EU: updated animal passport);

Important note: If a rabies booster vaccination or titration has been performed in the third country during the stay, it will be necessary to obtain an animal health certificate signed by the official authorities of the third country, these being the only authorities competent to recognise as valid the signature of the veterinary practitioner.

- in the case of dogs: they must not belong to Category 1 breeds;

*\*Derogation: the number of domestic carnivores may exceed five where participating in competitions, exhibitions, sporting events or training leading up to such events.*

Pet domestic carnivores arriving from the United Kingdom after Brexit:

In the hypothetical event that the United Kingdom's withdrawal occurs without an agreement on 1 November 2019, the aforementioned health conditions for import would apply to movements of carnivores kept as pets entering France from the United Kingdom. Specifically, rabies antibody titration should be performed for such animals within three months preceding importation.

## **B - Conditions for the importation of pet birds (maximum number: five specimens):**

- an animal health certificate from the third country of provenance ((Decision 2007/25/EC);
- a declaration by the owner (cf. Annex III of Decision 2007/25/EC of the Commission of 22 December 2006 as amended);
- isolation for a prior period of 30 days at the point of departure from a country listed in EC regulation 206/2010

with

- vaccination and at least one booster dose against avian influenza H5 and H7 in the previous six months and at least 60 days prior to importation;

with

- PCR testing for H5 and H7 avian influenza virus showing negative results for a sample taken on the third day of isolation at the earliest, the animal being maintained in isolation before importation for at least ten days;
- birds must not be introduced into any location containing a flock for 30 days after entry into the EU.

## **C - Conditions for the importation into France of rodents, lagomorphs, reptiles, amphibians and warm-water ornamental tropical fish (maximum number: five specimens)**

- an accompanying document signed by a veterinary practitioner (cf. Annex 27 of the official order of 19 July 2002).

## **D - Other animals**

Specific conditions and restrictions apply to animals belonging to species protected under the Washington Convention (CITES).

Importation of primates kept as pets is not authorised.

All other species are subject to mandatory checks at a Border Inspection Post approved for the species concerned.

[For more information, go to:](#)

[Importation into the EU of pet animals arriving from third countries outside the European Union](#) (updated: 06-04-2018) (PDF, 345.28 Ko)

### **Some definitions for additional information:**

Non-commercial movement: travel not intended for sale or transfer of ownership of a pet animal. Movement authorised within a period extending from five days before to five days after the journey made by the owner or authorised person.

Pet animal: an animal belonging to a species listed in Annex I of regulation (EU) 576/2013 accompanying its owner or a third person authorised by the owner to make the journey on the owner's behalf.

