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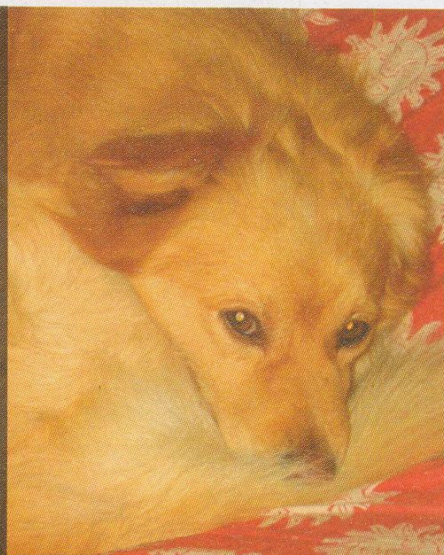


OF CYPRUS

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

VETERINARY SERVICES

NON-COMMERCIAL MOVEMENT OF PET ANIMALS



LEFKOSIA
July 2009

This informative booklet describes the provisions and the requirements in force which must be fulfilled with regard to animal health, identification and inspection of accompanying documents, for the non-commercial movement of pet animals.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Legal framework

The Animal Health Laws and the Regulation (EC) No 998/2003, as well as every other community or national legislation in relation to it, constitute the legal basis for the non-commercial movement of pet animals. The Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 lays down the animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals (dogs, cats, ferrets) and the rules applying to checks on such movement.

Terms used in the text

❖ Pet animals

Dogs, cats, ferrets, invertebrates (except bees and crustaceans), ornamental tropical fish, amphibia, reptiles, birds (except poultry covered by Council Directives 90/539/EEC and 92/65/EEC), rodents and domestic rabbits.

❖ Movement of a pet animal

Any movement of a pet animal between Member States or its entry or re-entry into the territory of the Community from a third country.

❖ Non-commercial movement of a pet animal

Any movement of a pet animal which is accompanying its owner or a natural person responsible for the animal on behalf of the owner during its movement and is not intended to be sold or transferred to another owner.

❖ European Union Member State

A country which is a member of the EU.

❖ Third country

A country which is not a member of the EU.

❖ European Union Pet Passport

A document in the format set forth by the EU Commission Decision 2003/803/EC, which is issued by an authorised veterinarian. This document allows the pet animal to be clearly identified and includes indications according to which it is certified that the process followed and the animal's health status are in compliance with the provisions in force.

❖ Health Certificate

A document in the format set forth by the EU Commission Decision 2004/824/EC, which is issued by an official or an authorised veterinarian. This document allows the pet animal to be clearly identified and includes indications according to which it is certified that the process

followed and the animal's health status are in compliance with the provisions in force. The certificate is valid for four months after signature by the official veterinarian or endorsement by the competent authority, or until the date of expiry of the vaccination against rabies, whichever is earlier.

❖ **Authorised Veterinarian**

A registered veterinarian authorised by the Director of the Veterinary Services for the conduct of specific veterinary checks and identification procedures on pet animals.

❖ **Official Veterinarian**

A veterinarian employed by the Competent Authority.

II. ENTRY INTO THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

Points of entry

The points of entry for the non-commercial movement of pet animals are the following:

- The Larnaka and Pafos International Airports.
- The Lemesos, Larnaka and Pafos ports and marinas.

The entry of a pet animal from any other point except those mentioned above is prohibited.

The entry points for animal species covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) are the Larnaka and Pafos International Airports and the Lemesos and Larnaka ports only.

Notification of arrival

The owner or the person responsible for a pet animal originating from a third country must communicate its arrival to the District Veterinary Office of the relevant point of entry, as well as all the necessary information about the date and time of arrival and the flight number or the ship's name. The information must be communicated at least 48 hours prior to the arrival.

DOGS, CATS, FERRETS

A. General requirements

1. Identification

Every animal must be individually identified. An animal is considered identified when it bears either

- ✓ a clearly readable tattoo or
- ✓ an electronic identification system (transponder - microchip).

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- ✓ an electronic identification system (transponder - microchip).

Regardless of the form of the identification system, the information which would facilitate the verification of the owner's name, surname and address should also be attainable. The transponder (microchip) must comply with ISO standard 11784 or annex A to ISO standard 11785. In the case where the transponder does not comply with the aforementioned standards, the owner/person responsible for the animal must provide the means necessary for reading the transponder at the time of inspection. The tattoo, as a means of identification, will only be accepted until 3 July 2011. After this date the only identification system allowed will be the transponder. **The implantation of the microchip should be proved that it has been performed prior to at least one vaccination against rabies.**

2. vaccination against rabies

In order to be vaccinated, the animal must be at least three months old. The vaccination, or revaccination if applicable, must be in accordance with the recommendations of the vaccine's manufacturer and carried out with an inactivated vaccine of at least one antigenic unit per dose according to the World Organization of Animal Health standards. The completion of the protocol for the animal's primary vaccination must take place at least 21 days prior to the movement of the animal. Revaccinations (booster vaccinations) are valid from the date of administration, provided they are administered within the period of validity indicated by the manufacturer of the vaccine used in the previous vaccination. The vaccination will be considered as a primary vaccination in the absence of veterinary certification attesting the previous vaccination. The relevant documents ratifying the fulfilment of these requirements should be presented upon request during the inspection at the point of entry.

3. Age

Taking into account the abovementioned requirements, any pet animal entering the territory of the Republic of Cyprus must be at least 111 days old. **The entry of pet animals aged less than 111 days old is prohibited regardless of the country of origin.**

4. Breed

The entry of dogs of the following breeds is prohibited regardless of the country of origin.

- American Pit Bull Terrier or Pit Bull Terrier
- Japanese Tosa or Tosa Inu
- Dogo Argentino or Argentinian Mastiff
- Fila Brasileiro or Brazilian Mastiff

5. Transport

In the case of transport by air, the animals should be placed in containers which fulfil the requirements of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) specifications.

In the case of transport by sea, the animals must be transported under conditions fulfilling the health and welfare provisions as foreseen by the legislation in force.

B. Special requirements

1. Entry from EU Member States

Accompanying documents

1. Passport certifying a valid anti-rabies vaccination
2. Document verifying that the animal has arrived in Cyprus from another EU Member State.

2. Entry from a third country

Maximum number of animals allowed

Unless the animals originate from one of the countries and territories listed in section 2 of part B of annex II of the Regulation (EC) No 998/2003, only up to five pet animals per citizen are allowed to enter into the territory of the Republic of Cyprus. In the case that more than five animals are moved, their movement is subject to the requirements and checks which apply to the commercial movements.

2.(a) Countries and territories listed in section 2 of part B and in part C of annex II of the Regulation (EC) No 998/2003

Accompanying documents

1. Health Certificate or Passport (for countries which have notified the European Commission of their intention to use the passport instead of the certificate and in the case of re-entry of a pet animal of EU origin), certifying a valid vaccination against rabies.
2. Document verifying that the animal has arrived in Cyprus either directly or transiting through an EU Member State from a third country or territory listed in section 2 of part B or in part C of annex II of the Regulation.

Exemption

Pet animals from the territories listed in section 2 of part B of Annex II, shall be subject to the rules governing the entry from EU Member States, provided that it has been established that such territories apply rules at least equivalent to Community rules.

2.(b) Other third countries

Rabies neutralising antibody titration

The neutralising antibody titer must be at least equal to 0,5 IU/ml and the titration must be carried out on a blood sample taken by an authorised veterinarian at least 30 days after vaccination and three months before the animal's movement. In other words, four months prior to the movement the animal must receive the primary anti-rabies vaccination, followed by blood sampling for neutralising antibody titration 30 days after that vaccination. The laboratory performing the titration must be approved by the EU. The titration does not have to be

renewed on a pet animal which has been revaccinated at the intervals recommended by the vaccine's manufacturer. The three months period does not apply to the re-entry of a pet animal whose passport certifies that the titration was carried out, with a positive result, before the animal left the territory of the Community.

Accompanying documents

1. Health Certificate or Passport (in the case of re-entry of a pet animal of EU origin), certifying:
 - (a) The existence of a valid vaccination against rabies and
 - (b) a neutralising antibody titration test result, of at least equal to 0,5 IU/ml.
2. Document verifying that the animal has arrived in Cyprus either directly or transiting through an EU Member State from a third country not listed either in section 2 of part B or in part C of annex II of the Regulation.

C. Conduct of checks

Upon arrival, every animal and its accompanying documents are inspected either by a Veterinary Officer or by a Customs Officer on duty. If the respective entry requirements for each case are met, the animal can enter into the territory of the Republic of Cyprus without the need of an import permit and without being subject to isolation in quarantine. Inspection fees are paid in the case of entry of a pet from a third country and whenever the entry requirements are not met.

D. Actions taken when a pet animal does not fulfil the provisions

Depending on the requirements which are not met, the pet animal may be:

- Returned to the country of origin (re-exported).
- Isolated in quarantine for as long as necessary for it to meet the health requirements. The duration of the quarantine cannot exceed a six-month period.
- Euthanised without any compensation to the owner or the person responsible for the animal, if re-exportation or isolation in quarantine for the required period is not feasible.

Furthermore, the owner or the person responsible for the animal is obliged to pay the legal inspection and quarantine fees as indicated in the legislation, plus VAT. Regardless of the animal's country of origin, quarantine takes place at private kennels which are registered and officially approved for that purpose. In the case of absence of such kennels, home quarantine will apply.

OTHER SPECIES

No harmonised legislation at EU level exists for the time being, as far as the remaining pet animal species is concerned, and therefore these species' entry in each EU Member State is governed by its national legislation. For the entry of pet animals other than dogs, cats and ferrets, an import permit issued by the Veterinary Services must be obtained prior to the movement.

III. EXIT FROM THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

The veterinary provisions in force governing the non-commercial movement of companion animals differ from one country to another. It is the responsibility of the pet owner or the person responsible for the animal to ensure that the animal meets the entry requirements of the country of destination and to obtain the necessary documents prior to the pet's movement.

IV. INFORMATION

Further information, including lists of countries and territories, lists of the EU approved laboratories and links for the national websites of Member States which have specific requirements for the entry of pet animals to their territory, can be obtained at the websites of

- The Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection
(http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/index_en.htm)
- The Veterinary Services of the Republic of Cyprus
(<http://www.moa.gov.cy/vs>)

and at the following contact points

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