

Import of dogs, cats, and ferrets from third countries into Austria

Basically, there are two possibilities for the import or introduction of dogs, cats or ferrets into the EU.

1. Import of dogs, cats, and ferrets

The conditions have been laid down in **Implementing Decision 2019/294/EU**.

A **health certificate** in accordance with the model in part 1 of Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/294 has to be provided on the occasion of border veterinarian control at the external border of the EU. This certificate has to be issued by the official veterinarian of the country of provenance according to the respective notes in Annex part 2 of Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/294.

Import may only take place from those **third countries** from which the import is allowed according to article 1 of Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/294.

This article refers to three third country lists:

- a) List in Annex II of Implementing Regulation (EU) 577/2013 as amended by Implementing Reg. (EU) 2019/1293. The following countries have been entered in the list:

Andorra, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Greenland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City State, Ascension Island, United Arab Emirates, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Aruba, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Barbados, Bahrain, Bermuda, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (the BES Islands), Belarus, Canada, Chile, Curaçao, Fiji, Falkland Islands, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Japan, St. Kitts and Nevis, Cayman Islands, St. Lucia, Montserrat, North Macedonia, Mauritius, Mexico, Malaysia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, St. Pierre et Miquelon, Russia, Singapore, St. Helena, Sint Maarten, Trinidad and Tobago, Taiwan, United States of America (including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands), St. Vincent and the Grenadines, British Virgin Islands, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna.

No serological test for rabies antibodies (rabies titre test) is required for dogs, cats, or ferrets coming from these countries even in those cases where the country has been entered in the other third country lists.

Due to the conditions that have to be complied with, import of dogs, cats, or ferrets younger than 16 weeks is not possible (rabies vaccination after the 12th week of age and 21 days until vaccination is deemed valid). As the conditions are completely harmonised there is no possibility of issuing national permits for younger animals.

- b) List in Annex I of Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/659. This is the list for the import of Equidae. This list has been amended by Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/2147.
- c) List in Annex II part 1 of Regulation (EU) 206/2010. This list was last amended by Regulation (EU) 2020/386.

For dogs, cats and ferrets coming from countries under b) and c) a serological rabies test is required except where the country has already been entered into the list under a).

Thus, animals from these countries must be **at least 7 months old**.

Both lists are being combined below excluding those countries that have already been entered in the list under a) or which have signed agreements with the EU and thus may move animals under the conditions of intra-Union trade. These lists comprise the following countries:

Albania, Bolivia, Belize, Brazil, Botswana, China, Costa Rica, Columbia, Cuba, Algeria, Ethiopia, India, Kuwait, Egypt, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Montenegro, Madagascar, Macao, Namibia, Nicaragua, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Serbia, El Salvador, Swaziland, Qatar, Saudi-Arabia, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, South Africa, Lebanon, Zimbabwe;

Dogs, cats and ferrets coming from **Switzerland** or **Norway** are moved under the conditions of **intra-Union trade**.

Controls

The **import checks by a border veterinarian** will be carried out at the first border inspection post of the EU authorised for checks on this species.

The veterinary certificates have to be issued in the official language of the Member state where the checks by a border veterinarian are carried out, and in the official language of the Member state of destination.

The border veterinarian will also check compliance with the conditions for animal welfare during transport. These conditions have been laid down in Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005.

Please take note of the conditions for approval of transport vehicles.

The border veterinarian shall be notified at least one working day prior to the intended crossing of the border of the animals by CHED-A (Common Health Entry Document).

Information on the implementation of border veterinary checks can be found on the website at:

<https://www.sozialministerium.at/en/Topics/Health/Import-and-Transit1.html>

under the topics

- ✓ Common Health Entry Document (CHED), and

- ✓ List of Austrian Border Control Posts

The consignee shall inform the competent official veterinarian of the arrival of the animals at the place of destination.

2. Entry of dogs, cats, and ferrets under the conditions of pets accompanying travellers

Dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*), domestic cats (*Felis silvestris catus*) and ferrets (*Mustela putorius furo*), complying with the conditions for pets accompanying travellers are those, which are accompanying their owners or another authorised person responsible for such animals on behalf of the owner during their movement and **not intended to be sold or transferred to another owner**.

You will find all information on the entry of dogs, cats, and ferrets accompanying travellers on the website of the BMSGPK (Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection) at the following link:

<https://www.sozialministerium.at/en/Topics/Health/Information-for-travellers.html>

under the topic

- ✓ Entry and re-entry of pets from third countries to Austria

Legal bases (applicable as last amended):

[ComDec \(EU\) 2019/294](#)

[Reg \(EU\) No 577/2013](#)

[Reg \(EU\) 2018/659](#)

[Reg \(EU\) No 206/2010](#)

Important web sites:

List of Austrian border inspection posts

CHED (Common Health Entry Document)

<https://www.sozialministerium.at/en/Topics/Health/Border-Control-Service.html>

List of EU approved laboratories for rabies serological testing:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/approved-labs/index_en.htm

Please bear also in mind that there may be import bans or restrictions applicable due to other EU or national legislation, e.g. financial legislation (e.g. Customs).

Information on customs legislation is available from the Federal Ministry of Finance on their website at: <https://www.bmf.gv.at/> under the reference "Zoll" (customs).

Further information:

Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

Telephone (Mo through Fr, 9:00-16:00): +43 (0)1 71100 ext. 644833 or +43 (0)1 7007 33484

E-mail: anton.bartl@sozialministerium.at or gta.wien@sozialministerium.at