

Import requirements South Africa

Please note that the information is up to date but since the rules and regulations are subject to change, we advise you to always check with your veterinarian for the latest information and/or contact the appropriate authorities for your destination

Pets imported into South Africa from the United Arab Emirates require a quarantine on entry into South Africa. Quarantine for dogs usually takes about 8 weeks to arrange in Johannesburg and 4 weeks in Cape Town.

Dogs are quarantined for up to 14 days on arrival (they will be blood tested for Brucellosis, Lepto, Ehrlichia & Leishmania during the quarantine period – even when they have been tested in their country of origin within 30 days of travel).

Cats are immediately released after their Quarantine/vet inspection on arrival.

All pets imported into South Africa require an import Permit.

When the Import Permit is issued there will be a Veterinary Health Certificate attached for export (2 pages for cats, 4 pages for dogs). This is the only Health Certificate that will be accepted by the South African Veterinarian who inspects the papers upon arrival at the airport. If this certificate has not been completed correctly, endorsed by the competent authority, and/or the original has not arrived with the animal, the animal will be sent back to the country of origin. This Veterinary Health Certificate must be legalized by the UAE MOEW here in Dubai and you require UAE MOEW Export Health certificate.

All documents must be sent for pre-approval in SA before the animal is sent.

Requirements

1. The animal needs to remain the origin country at least 6 months prior to departure and must be micro chipped using an ISO Compatible chip (ISO 11784/11785).
2. The animal needs to originate from an area, which is not under official veterinary restrictions by the Vet Administration (i.e USDA, CFIA, etc...) or the exporting country for any disease to which carnivores are susceptible.
3. The animal did not come in contact with animals infected or suspected of being infected with rabies.
4. The animal has a valid rabies vaccination no more than one year old but older than 30 days.
5. The animal originates from a country free of the following diseases (Dogs only):
 - Brucella Canis
 - Trypanosoma evansi
 - Babesia Gibsoni
 - Dirofilaria immitis
 - Leishmania
6. If the country of origin contains any of the diseases above, the animals need to be tested, with negative results, within 30 days of export for the following conditions at an officially approved laboratory, using testing procedures described in the OIE Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines, 2004 (ogs only). These test results will need to be noted on the Import Permit Veterinary Health Certificate with negative results.
7. Unless the country of origin is certified free of the diseases under number 5, the animals need to be

treated for the following conditions as prescribed below:

Trypanosoma Evansi: From the date of negative testing until export with Suramin or Diminazene aceturate, according to the instructions for use thereof by the manufacturer.

Dirofilaria Immitis: From the date of negative testing until export at the required intervals with: Diethylcarbamazine (5-6 mg/kg per os daily) Or Ivermectin (6 micrograms/kg per os monthly) Or Milbemycin oxime (0,5 mg/kg per os monthly) Or Moxidectin (3 micrograms/kg per os monthly) Treatment for Dirofilaria must continue for 6 months after arrival in South Africa and be noted on the Veterinary Health Certificate up to departure.

8. The pet needs to be examined by an official veterinarian within 10 days of export and need to be found to be free from internal and external parasites, contagious and infections diseases, and fit to travel. This test date and results are noted on the South African Veterinary health certificate required to enter the country. At this same time a UAE Health Certificate needs to be issued. This will be required to board the airplane.
9. Please note that it is a condition of the import permit that dogs/cats imported into South Africa should be booked as "manifested cargo" and NOT as "excess baggage".

Note: On the day of travelling, make sure that all documents are attached to your pet's travel kennel and make sure you have at least one copy of all the documents