



## **HONG KONG**

### *Customs hints on importing pet animals & birds*

- 1) Animals and birds (mammals, birds and reptiles) must not be imported into Hong Kong unless a Special Permit is obtained in advance from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in Hong Kong.
- 2) The process for the issue of the Special Permits is normally 5 working days. The Special Permits, when approved and issued, will normally be valid for 90 calendar days and is good for only one consignment. Do not arrange for the actual transportation of the animal unless the Special Permits has been obtained from the AFCD.
- 3) Dogs and cats under 8 weeks old are not allowed to be imported into Hong Kong nor transited through Hong Kong.
- 4) All animal must be transported by the fastest and most direct route to Hong Kong, and must be carried and caged in such a way as to ensure humane management at all times.
- 5) A Veterinary Health Certificate from the competent veterinary authorities, dated not more than 14 days before departure, is required.
- 6) Type of Special Permits for dogs and cats are:

#### **GROUP I COUNTRIES**

Dogs and cats imported directly from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii, Japan and Taiwan are normally exempted from quarantine, subject to full compliance with the Permit conditions:

- a) Veterinary Health Certificate dated not more than 14 days is required before the departure of the animal. The Health Certificate must certify that the animal is free from any clinical signs of infectious or contagious diseases, fit to travel, and is either not pregnant or less than 4 weeks pregnant if it is a female.
- b) Residence Certificate is required certifying that the animal has been continuously residing in the country of origin during the preceding 6 months, or since birth, prior to departure from that country.
- c) Dogs and cats under 8 weeks of age must not be imported.
- d) A combined Veterinary Health, Residence and Vaccination Certificate is acceptable. The Certificates must be signed and stamped by either a full time salaried government veterinary officer or a registered veterinary surgeon.
- e) The Veterinary Health Certificate, Residence Certificate and Vaccination Certificate only apply to one single animal.
- f) Other Major Infectious Diseases Vaccination Certificate is required certifying that the animal has been fully vaccinated against canine infectious diseases for not less than 10 days and not more than 1 year before importing into Hong Kong :



- 1) Dog: Puppy under 12 weeks of age at the time of export must have been vaccinated at not less than 6 weeks of age, and not less than 10 days preceding export against Canine Distemper using Measles vaccine in addition to Distemper vaccine and against Canine Parvovirus. The animal must have been fully vaccinated according to the vaccine manufacturer's recommendations for animals of that age. The recommended dates for follow-up (booster) vaccinations must be clearly stated in the Vaccination Certificate.
  - 2) Cats: Feline Panleucopaenia (Infectious Enteritis) and Feline Respiratory Disease Complex (Cat Flu).
- g) Airline Certificate or Captain's Affidavit is required to certify that the animal has traveled the entire journey on one aircraft without leaving the aircraft enroute and/or without any stopping/changing-over in a country of lower health status, and was not in contact with any other animals.

### **GROUP II COUNTRIES**

Dogs and cats imported from the following 39 countries may be exempted from quarantine, subject to full compliance with the Permit conditions:

Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belgium, Bermuda, Brunei, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Guam, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Norway, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United States of America, Vanuatu, Virgin Islands. There is a possibility that the rabies-free status or other factors may change in these countries. The above listed is subject to ongoing review.

- a) Veterinary Health Certificate dated not more than 14 days is required before the departure of the animal. The Health Certificate must certify that the animal is free from any clinical signs of infectious or contagious diseases, fit to travel, and is either not pregnant or less than 4 weeks pregnant if it is a female.
- b) Residence Certificate is required certifying that the animal has been continuously residing in the country of origin during the preceding 6 months, or since birth, prior to departure from that country, and that there has been no case of rabies reported in that country, or area, district, State for United States of America, Canada, South Africa or Western Europe, during the said period.
- c) Dogs and cats under 8 weeks of age must not be imported.
- d) A combined Veterinary Health, Residence and Vaccination Certificate is acceptable. The Certificate must be signed and stamped by either a full time salaried government veterinary officer or a registered veterinary surgeon.
- e) The Veterinary Health Certificate, Residence Certificate and Vaccination Certificate only apply to one single animal.
- f) Anti-rabies Vaccination Certificate is required certifying, with full details of vaccines, that the animal has been vaccinated against rabies for less than 1 year and more than 30 days prior to departure. In the case of primary vaccination, the animal must be at least 3 months old when vaccinated, and showing a good history of anti-rabies vaccination (with details)



extending back over a period of more than 1 year, or since puppy-hood or kitten-hood, be included in the Certificate.

- g) Other Major Infectious Diseases Vaccination Certificate is required certifying that the animal has been fully vaccinated against canine/feline infectious diseases for not less than 14 days and not more than 1 year before importing into Hong Kong:
- 1) Dog: Against Canine Distemper, infectious Canine Hepatitis and Canine Parvovirus.
  - 2) Cat: Against Feline Panleucopaenia (Infectious Enteritis) and Feline Respiratory Disease Complex (Cat Flu).
- h) Airline Certificate or Captain's Affidavit is required certifying that the animal has traveled the entire journey on one aircraft without leaving the aircraft enroute and/or without any stopping/changing-over in a country of lower health status, and was not in contact with any other animals.

### GROUP III COUNTRIES

Dogs and cats imported from countries other than those listed above (Group I & II) are subject to a minimum of 4 months quarantine period. If deemed necessary, the quarantine period for dogs and cats from all countries, including Group I, II & III, may be extended to a minimum of 6 months for animals of doubtful history and/or showing suspicious clinical signs during the quarantine period.

- a) Veterinary Health Certificate dated not more than 14 days is required before the departure of the animal. The Health Certificate must certify that it is free from any clinical signs of infectious or contagious diseases, fit to travel, and is either not pregnant or less than 4 weeks pregnant if it is a female.
- b) Residence Certificate is not required.
- c) Dogs and cats under 8 weeks of age must not be imported.
- d) A combined Veterinary Health, Residence and Vaccination Certificate are acceptable. The Certificate must be signed and stamped by either a full time salaried government veterinary officer or a registered veterinary surgeon.
- e) The Veterinary Health Certificate, Residence Certificate and Vaccination Certificate only apply to one single animal.
- f) Anti-rabies Vaccination Certificate is required certifying, with full details of vaccines, that the animal has been vaccinated against rabies for less than 1 year and more than 30 days prior to departure. In the case of primary vaccination, the animal was at least 3 months old when vaccinated, and showing a good history of anti-rabies vaccination (with details) extending back over a period of more than 1 year, or since puppyhood or kittenhood, be included in the Certificate.
- g) Other Major Infectious Diseases Vaccination Certificate is required certifying that the animal has been fully vaccinated against canine/feline infectious diseases for not less than 14 days and not more than 1 year before importing into Hong Kong :
  - 1) Dog: Against Canine Distemper, Infectious Canine Hepatitis and Canine Parvovirus.



- 2) Cats: Against Feline Panleucopaenia (Infectious Enteritis) and Feline Respiratory Disease Complex (Cat Flu).
  - h) Animal under 6 months of age must have been vaccinated twice against the above mentioned diseases for not less than 14 days before coming to Hong Kong.
  - i) Airline Certificate or Captain's Affidavit is not required.
  - j) Quarantine period is generally reduced to 4 months should the terms and conditions of the Permit be fully complied with.
- 7) If the animal arrives in Hong Kong by air as manifested cargo (covered by an Airway Bill):
  - a) Notify the actual arrival details to AFCD Import Control Officers at the airport at least 2 working days prior to the arrival of the pets.
  - b) Approach the airline cargo handling agents concerned for the clearance of the animal. Obtained from the airline cargo handling agents the following documents:
    - 1) Airway Bill.
    - 2) Shipment Release Form.
    - 3) Airline Certificate.
  - c) Present the above documents to the AFCD Import Control Officers at the relevant office for documentation clearance and inspection.
  - d) Present the "Shipment Release Form" to the Supervisor of the relevant airline cargo handling agents for retrieval of the animal.
  - e) Deliver the animal to the relevant AFCD Officers for health check and other livestock clearance procedures.
  - f) If all Import Permit conditions are complied with and all documents are in order, the animal will be released. Otherwise, the animal may be transferred to the Airport Animal Hostel or the Quarantine kennels as appropriate.
- 8) If the animal arrives in Hong Kong by other routes, contact the AFCD well in advance for special arrangement. All government kennels are under the supervision of AFCD Veterinary Officers, but the client is required to nominate their own private veterinary surgeon to provide veterinary care and treatment at the client's own expenses.
- 9) Pets that have left Hong Kong are subject to the same importation and quarantine restrictions as outlined in this pamphlet on their return to Hong Kong. Special Permit to bring pets which have left Hong Kong need to be obtained from the AFCD well in advance.

#### **DISCLAIMER**

The above information herein is correct at the time of preparing, however, changes in laws and convention can alter from time to time which may affect the importation of Goods. Whilst every effort is made to keep this information as up to date as possible, Asian Express will not accept any responsibility or liability for any changes in import and export regulations.

