

Appended Form 5-2

Guide to importing dogs and cats into Japan  
from Non-designated regions  
(Final revision: Nov., 2021)

Animal Quarantine Service  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

**What are the “Non-designated regions”?**

All countries or regions other than Iceland, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji Islands, Hawaii and Guam.

\*The designation is subject to change due to the prevalence of rabies or the revision of quarantine regulations.

**This guide describes the requirements and necessary procedures for importing dogs and cats into Japan from Non-designated regions.**

**We strongly recommend reading this guide if you are planning to bring dogs or cats into Japan.**

**For further information, feel free to contact Animal Quarantine Service.**

**Contents**

A. Introduction ..... 2

**Importer’s responsibility**..... 2

**Animals covered by this guide**..... 2

B. Import quarantine procedures ..... 2

**Flow chart**..... 2

**STEP 1: Microchip**..... 2

**STEP 2: Rabies vaccination (twice or more)** ..... 2

**STEP 3: Rabies antibody test (serological test)**..... 2

**STEP 4: Waiting period (180 days or more)**..... 2

**STEP 5: Advance notification** ..... 2

        1. Submission of notification ..... 2

        2. Approval of Import Inspection of Animals ..... 2

        3. Modification of Notification ..... 2

**STEP 6: Clinical inspection before departure (pre-export inspection)** ..... 2

**STEP 7: Obtaining certificates issued by the government agency of the exporting country ..** 2

        1. Required information in the certificates ..... 2

        2. Advance confirmation of the certificates ..... 2

**STEP 8: Import inspection after arrival in Japan**..... 2

        1. Inspection upon arrival ..... 2

        2. Quarantine inspection at a detention facility of Animal Quarantine Service ..... 2

**[Reference 1] Rabies vaccination administered before microchip implanting** ..... 2

**[Reference 2] Notes for transportation** ..... 2

        1. Ports of entry where import is allowed ..... 2

        2. Health condition for transport ..... 2

        3. Transport cage ..... 2

        4. Types of transportation ..... 2

**[Reference 3] Recommended treatments (vaccinations, parasite treatment)** ..... 2

        1. Vaccinations (combination vaccine) ..... 2

        2. Treatment for external and internal parasites ..... 2

C. List of Animal Quarantine Service ..... 2

D. Management after import into Japan ..... 2

## A. Introduction

Dogs and cats imported into Japan must undergo import quarantine in accordance with the Rabies Prevention Law and, additionally for dogs, the Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control Law.

For dogs and cats meeting certain requirements upon arrival in Japan, the quarantine period (for import inspection) will be within 12 hours.

Any dogs and cats that do not meet the requirements will be subject to quarantine at a detention facility of Animal Quarantine Service for the necessary period (up to 180 days). Depending on the results of the import inspection, the dog or cat cannot be allowed to enter Japan.

## Importer's responsibility

The "importer" (person planning to import dogs or cats) is responsible for the following obligations at their own expense. You should begin the importation procedure only after fully understanding and accepting these obligations.

- ◆ Inspections and treatments in the exporting country
- ◆ Advance notification
- ◆ Obtaining all necessary documents including certificates
- ◆ Arrangements for transportation
- ◆ Application for Import Inspection upon arrival in Japan
- ◆ Measures and expenses for quarantine at a detention facility, if necessary
- ◆ Reshipment if import is not permitted
- ◆ Other matters that an animal quarantine officer may instruct as necessary

## Animals covered by this guide

This guide applies to the following animals and first-generation hybrids\*<sup>1</sup> between these and other animals.

Type of animal	Family	Genus	Species	Scientific name* <sup>2</sup>
Dog	Canidae	Canis	Domestic dog	<i>Canis familiaris</i>
Cat	Felidae	Felis	Domestic cat	<i>Felis catus</i>

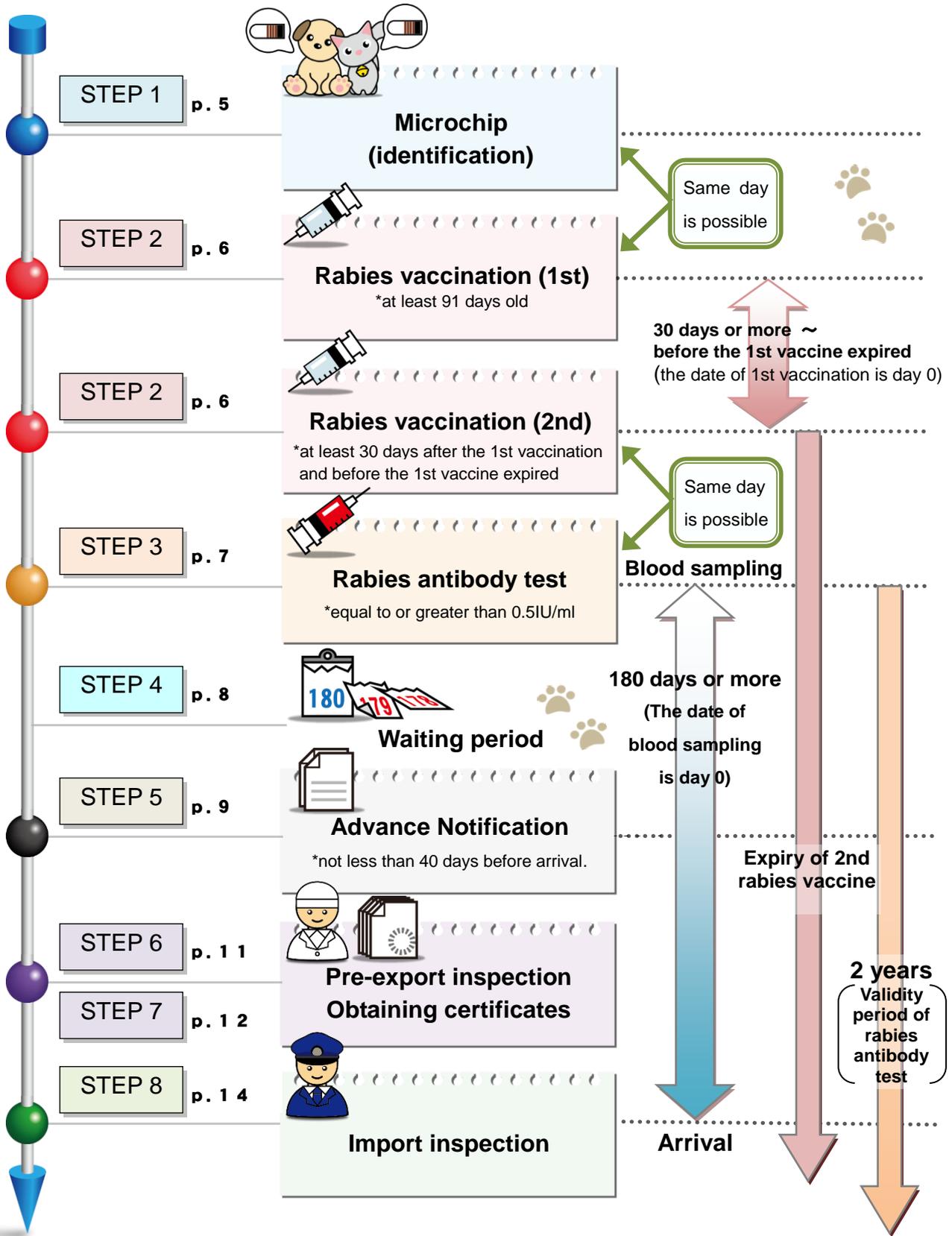
\*<sup>1</sup> First-generation hybrid: a cross between distinctly different parental types.

Examples: Wolfdog (domestic dog × wolf); Savannah cat (domestic cat × serval)

\*<sup>2</sup> Source: A World List of Mammals with Japanese Names (Heibonsha Limited, 1998)

## B. Import quarantine procedures

### Flow chart





## STEP 1: Microchip

All dogs and cats imported into Japan must be identified by a microchip.

### Timing of microchip implanting

The microchip must be implanted before the first rabies vaccination [→ STEP 2].  
(Both procedures can be performed on the same day.)

#### \*What is a microchip?

This is a small chip that contains a unique identification number. An inserter shaped like an injection syringe is used to implant the microchip under the skin. The number is read by a specially designed scanner, enabling identification of the dog or cat.

### Recommended microchip standards

ISO 11784 and 11785 (15-digit microchip code which consists only of numbers.)  
(ISO: International Organization for Standardization)

### Precautions

- Microchip can be implanted at a veterinary hospital.
- Make sure that the microchip number can be read by a microchip reader upon each inspection and treatment at a veterinary hospital.
- If the microchip number cannot be read or the microchip number does not match the number on the certificates issued by the government agency of the exporting country [→ STEP 7] at the import inspection [→ STEP 8], the dog or cat will be subject to 180-day quarantine [→ STEP 8-2] or be returned at the importer's own expense.
- If the microchip is not in accordance with ISO standards, or if a method other than microchip is used for identification, you should contact Animal Quarantine Service at the expected port of entry [→ p. 23].
- Rabies vaccination [→ STEP 2] administered before microchip implanting is invalid, but it may be accepted under certain conditions. [→ Reference 1]

## STEP 2: Rabies vaccination (twice or more)



Rabies vaccination must be administered twice or more after the microchip is implanted.

### Timing of rabies vaccination

- First rabies vaccination
  - Dogs and cats must be at least 91 days old at the time of vaccination (the date of birth is counted as day 0).
  - Dogs and cats must be vaccinated after the microchip is implanted [→ STEP 1].  
(Both procedures can be performed on the same day.)
- Second rabies vaccination
  - The second vaccination must be administered at least 30 days after the first vaccination (the date of the first vaccination is counted as day 0) and within the effective period of the first vaccination.

#### \*What is the effective period?

This is not the expiration date for use of the vaccine (product), but the duration of immunity against rabies. As the duration may differ from product to product, you should confirm it with the veterinarian in charge of the vaccination.

### Types of acceptable vaccines

- Inactivated (killed) virus vaccine
  - Recombinant vaccine
- \*These types of vaccines above must be satisfied the standards of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).
- \*Live virus vaccine is not accepted.

### Precautions

- If the effective period of the rabies vaccination will expire before the day of arrival in Japan, an additional vaccination must be administered within the effective period.
- If administered after the effective period of the previous vaccination, it is not accepted as an “additional vaccination” and the importer must start the procedure from the first rabies vaccination.
- Rabies vaccination administered before microchip implanting is invalid, but it may be accepted under certain conditions. [→ Reference 1]

### STEP 3: Rabies antibody test (serological test)



A blood sample (serum) must be sent to a designated laboratory for rabies antibody test.

#### Timing of rabies antibody test

A blood sample must be taken at a veterinary hospital after the second rabies vaccination [→ STEP 2]. (The second rabies vaccination and blood sampling can be performed on the same day.)

The blood sample must be taken within the effective period of the rabies vaccination.

#### Designated laboratories

Rabies antibody test must be performed at one of the designated laboratories.

The laboratories are designated by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan

The list of designated laboratories is available at <http://www.maff.go.jp/ags/animal/dog/lab.html>

\*Test methods: FAVN (fluorescent antibody virus neutralization test) or RFFIT (rapid fluorescent focus inhibition test)

\*The blood sample (serum) of dogs must be subject to import or export inspection at Animal Quarantine Service at the time of entry to or departure from Japan. For more information, contact Animal Quarantine Service at the expected port of entry [→ p. 23].

#### Test result

The rabies antibody titer must be equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/ml.

#### Validity period of rabies antibody test

The test result is valid for 2 years from the date of blood sampling under conditions that the effective period from the first rabies vaccination continues with necessary additional rabies vaccinations.

Dogs and cats must arrive in Japan within the validity period of the rabies antibody test.

If unable to arrive within the validity period, another rabies antibody test is required [→ STEP 4]

#### Precautions

- Original result report of the antibody test issued by the designated laboratory is necessary at the time of import inspection [→ STEP 8].
- If the antibody titer is less than 0.5 IU/ml, the test must be performed again.
- We recommend you to contact a designated laboratory for detailed information on its procedure.

**STEP 4: Waiting period (180 days or more)**



The waiting period is 180 days or more (the date of the blood sampling for the rabies antibody test is counted as day 0).

Dogs and cats must arrive in Japan within the “effective period of the rabies vaccination” and the “validity period of the rabies antibody test” after at least 180 days from the date of blood sampling.

**If the waiting period is less than 180 days**

A dog or cat whose waiting has passed less than 180 days will be subject to quarantine at a detention facility of Animal Quarantine Service [→ STEP 8-2] until the total time of the waiting period and the quarantine period reaches 180 days.

**If the effective period of the rabies vaccination will expire before arrival in Japan**

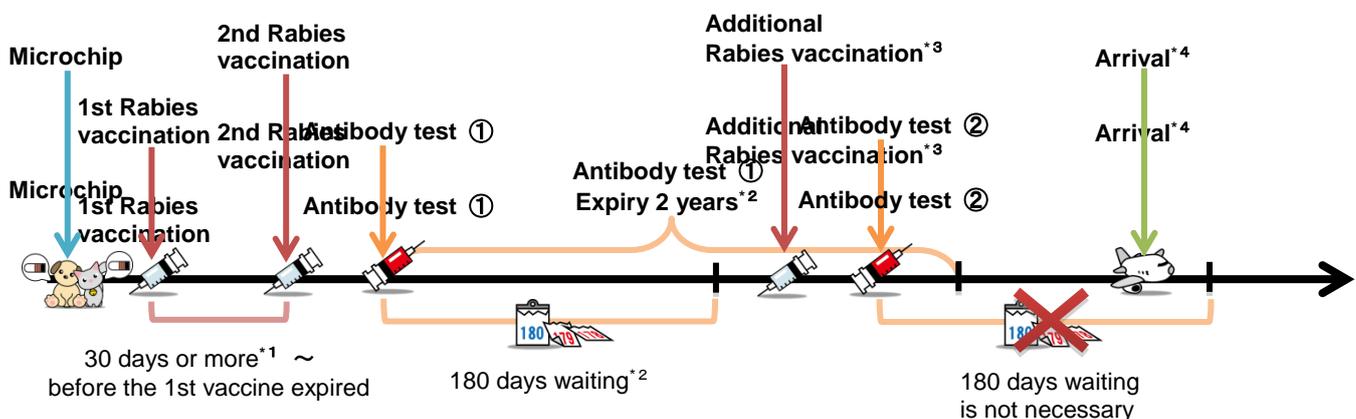
An additional vaccination must be administered within the effective period.  
If not administered within the period, it will be necessary to repeat STEP 2 and onward.

**If unable to arrive in Japan within the validity period of the rabies antibody test**

The second rabies antibody test (antibody test ②) must be performed and the dog or cat must arrive in Japan within the validity period of antibody test ② (within 2 years after the date of blood sampling).

If the following three conditions are all met, another waiting period (180 days or more) is not necessary after antibody test ②.

1. The effective period from the first rabies vaccination continues up to arrival in Japan with necessary additional rabies vaccinations.
2. The date of blood sampling for antibody test ② is at least 180 days after the date of blood sampling for the first rabies antibody test (antibody test ①), which is counted as day 0.
3. The rabies antibody titer is 0.5 IU/ml or more in all the rabies antibody tests.



<sup>\*1</sup> Date of the 1st rabies vaccination = day 0  
<sup>\*2</sup> Date of blood sampling = day 0  
<sup>\*3</sup> Within the effective period of the previous rabies vaccination  
<sup>\*4</sup> Within the effective period of the rabies vaccination and 2 years from the date of blood sampling for antibody test ②

## STEP 5: Advance notification



The importer must notify Animal Quarantine Service at the expected port of entry not less than 40 days before arrival in Japan.

### 1. Submission of notification

The importer must submit a “Notification” to Animal Quarantine Service at the expected port of entry [→ p. 23] by mail, fax or e-mail **not less than 40 days before** arrival in Japan.

“Notification” form is available on the website of Animal Quarantine Service.

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/import-other.html>

- ◆ For dogs: “Notification for Import of Dogs under the Rabies Prevention Law and the Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control Law”
- ◆ For cats: “Notification of Import of Animals under the Rabies Prevention Law”

Notification can be made online through the NACCS (Nippon Automated Cargo and Port Consolidated System).

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/tetuzuki/system/49.html>

#### Hints for “Notification”

- Date of birth (Age): If the date of birth is unknown, enter the age of the dog or cat at the time of arrival
- Scheduled place of arrival: Name of the expected arrival airport or seaport
- Consignor: The person exporting or traveling with the dog or cat from abroad
- Consignee: The person receiving the dog or cat upon arrival in Japan
- Date of identification: The date that the microchip was implanted
- Cargo or hand luggage: The type of transportation [→ Reference 2-4]
- Name and address of destination: Place where the dog or cat will be kept after import into Japan
- Rabies vaccination: Information on rabies vaccinations administered
- Date of expiry: Not the expiration date for use of the vaccine, but the duration of immunity (effective period)
- Kind of vaccine: Rabies vaccination → inactivated (killed) virus vaccine or recombinant vaccine  
Other vaccination → names of target diseases (such as distemper, feline calicivirus, etc.)
- Date of blood sampling: The date that the blood sample was taken for the rabies antibody test

### Precautions

- Ports of entry for importing dogs are restricted. [→ Reference 2-1]
- Clearly indicate the contact information on the “Notification.”
- The “Notification” can be submitted during the waiting period before export [→ STEP 4].
- In principle, a notification submitted less than 40 days before arrival in Japan will not be accepted.
- If the port of entry has not been determined 40 days before arrival in Japan, you can submit the “Notification” filled out with provisional information to one of Animal Quarantine Service at the most likely port of entry. After the plans are finalized, submit a “Modification on Notification of Import of Animals” [→ STEP 5-3].

## 2. Approval of Import Inspection of Animals

Animal Quarantine Service will examine the "Notification" and related documents to issue an "Approval of Import Inspection of Animals". For export or boarding procedures, please print or save digitally the issued form.

### Precautions

- Animal Quarantine Service may instruct some changes to the arrival date or the port of entry.
- The quarantine period on the "Approval of Import Inspection of Animals" may be subject to change due to the results of the import inspection upon arrival in Japan.

## 3. Modification of Notification

If there are any changes or additions to the submitted "Notification," submit a "Modification on Notification of Import of Animals" by mail, fax or e-mail to Animal Quarantine Service to which the "Notification" was submitted.

If the changes or additions do not affect the import inspection, Animal Quarantine Service will re-issue an "Approval of Import Inspection of Animals."

- The "Modification on Notification of Import of Animals" form is available on the website of Animal Quarantine Service.  
<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/animal/dog/pdf/modnotification.pdf>
- "Modification on Notification of Import of Animals" must be submitted before the scheduled arrival date.

If the original notification was made online through the NACCS, modification must be made through the NACCS, too.

\*Before making any changes, you need to contact Animal Quarantine Service to which the "Notification" was submitted.

### Precautions

- The following changes may not be accepted as they may affect the import inspection:
  - ◆ Advancing the arrival date
  - ◆ Increasing the number of imported animals
  - ◆ Replacing with different animals
  - ◆ Changing the importation schedule after the scheduled arrival date

## STEP 6: Clinical inspection before departure (pre-export inspection)



Before leaving the exporting country, all dogs and cats must undergo a clinical inspection (pre-export inspection) by a veterinarian.

### Timing of pre-export inspection

Immediately before leaving (within 10 days before boarding), dogs and cats must undergo a clinical inspection by a private veterinarian or a veterinary officer of a government agency of the exporting country.

#### **\*Date of pre-export inspection**

It is desirable that this inspection is performed as close as possible to the date of departure (within 10 days before boarding). However, if it is difficult due to circumstances in the exporting country, contact Animal Quarantine Service at the expected port of entry [→ p. 23].

### Contents of clinical inspection

- For dogs
  - ◆ The dog has been found to be free from any clinical signs of rabies and leptospirosis.
- For cats
  - ◆ The cat has been found to be free from any clinical signs of rabies.

## STEP 7: Obtaining certificates issued by the government agency of the exporting country



The importer must obtain certificates issued by the government agency of the exporting country.

### \*What is the government agency of the exporting country?

This means that the agency in charge of animal quarantine services in the government of the exporting country (corresponding to Animal Quarantine Service in Japan).

## 1. Required information in the certificates

### (1) Date of birth or age

### (2) Microchip [→ STEP 1]

- Microchip number
- Date of microchip implanting

### (3) Rabies vaccinations [→ STEP 2]

(Information on all rabies vaccinations described on the accepted “Notification”)

- Dates of vaccinations
- Effective period
- Kind of vaccine (inactivated (killed) virus vaccine or recombinant vaccine)
- Product name and manufacturer of vaccine

### (4) Rabies antibody test [→ STEP 3]

(Information on all rabies antibody tests described on the accepted “Notification”)

- Date of blood sampling
- Name of designated laboratory
- Antibody titer

\*Attach the “Result report of the test” issued by the designated laboratory.

### (5) Pre-export inspection [→ STEP 6]

- Date of inspection
- The dog or cat has been found to be free from any clinical signs of rabies and, for dogs, leptospirosis.

### (6) Vaccinations other than for rabies and parasite treatment [→ Reference 3]

(Only when performed)

- Name of target diseases or parasites
- Dates of vaccinations or treatment (administration)
- Kind of vaccine (if vaccinated)
- Effective period (if vaccinated)

### Recommended certification forms (Form AC)

Using the recommended certification forms (Form AC) makes it possible for the importer to fill in the required information without any omissions.

- Form AC are available on the website of Animal Quarantine Service.  
<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/attach/pdf/import-other-5.pdf>
- The private veterinarian fills in the Form AC. Endorsement from the government agency of the exporting country must be obtained.
- Due to circumstance in the exporting country, official government veterinarian could fill in the Form AC instead of the private veterinarian.

As long as you have all of the blanks on the Form AC filled in and it's endorsed, there is no problem.

- If you need more page, attach another Form AC to the first page and fill in the blanks in a same manner.

#### \*What is an endorsement?

Endorsement means that the certificate is approved by the government agency of the exporting country. For a valid endorsement, the signature of the veterinary officer of the government agency, the name and official stamp of the agency, and the signed date are necessary. If the endorsement is not complete, the certificate will not be considered as issued by the government agency of the exporting country.

### Precautions

- Do not use a pencil or erasable pen to fill in the certificates.
- Use of correcting fluid or correction tape is not acceptable. Draw double lines through the words to be corrected, and then write the correct information. The signature of the person making the correction and the correction date are also required.
- Once the endorsement is obtained, no corrections will be accepted other than those made by the government agency of the exporting country. Corrections should be made before the endorsement is obtained. If a correction is made by the government agency of the exporting country, another endorsement of the correction must be obtained.

## 2. Advance confirmation of the certificates

In order to prevent any errors in the certificates, advance confirmation from Animal Quarantine Service is recommended.

- The importer can send the certificates (or drafts), after the required items are filled in, by fax or e-mail to Animal Quarantine Service that received the "Notification."
- Confirmation of drafts are recommended because corrections may not be accepted once the endorsement is obtained.

### Precautions

- If there are any errors in the certificates, the dog or cat will be subject to detention quarantine [→ STEP 8-2] for up to 180 days or will be returned.

## STEP 8: Import inspection after arrival in Japan



Dogs and cats must be inspected by Animal Quarantine Service at the port of entry upon arrival in Japan.

If the requirements are not met as the result of import inspection, the dog or cat will be subject to quarantine for up to 180 days, or will be returned.

### Import inspection

Importer must apply for an import inspection to Animal Quarantine Service upon arrival.

#### 1. Inspection upon arrival

If no problems are found in the inspection upon arrival, an Import Quarantine Certificate will be granted and the dog or cat can be imported.

### Places to apply for inspection

- ◆ For hand luggage (checked baggage) transportation [→ Reference 2-4]  
Before Customs inspection, bring the dog or cat to Animal Quarantine Service counter in the baggage claim area.
- ◆ For cargo transportation [→ Reference 2-4]  
After receiving the necessary documents from the airline or shipping line staff at the cargo area, come to Animal Quarantine Service office.

### Applicant

The “Importer” or the “Attorney authorized by the Importer” must apply for the inspection.

### Necessary documents

- Application for Import Inspection
- Power of Attorney (if an attorney except for the customs broker is in charge of the procedures.)
- Result report of the Rabies Antibody Test [→ STEP 3]
- Certificates issued by the government agency of the exporting country [→ STEP 7]
- (For cargo transportation) A copy of the AWB (Air Waybill) (if air cargo)  
A copy of the B/L (Bill of Lading) (if sea cargo)
- Other documents that Animal Quarantine Service requires

### **Import inspection**

The following matters will be inspected:

- ◆ No abnormality is found in the health condition of the dog or cat (target diseases: rabies and, for dogs, leptospirosis).
- ◆ Microchip number matches the numbers on all the certificates (by reading the microchip number).
- ◆ The certificate is issued or endorsed by the government agency of the exporting country.
- ◆ The contents of the certificates issued by the government agency of the exporting country meet the requirements for importing dogs and cats into Japan.

### **Estimated time for inspection**

If no problems are found with the certificates or with the health condition of the dog or cat (the requirements are met), the quarantine period for inspection will be less than 12 hours (usually less than a few hours).

### **Rabies Antibody Titer Monitoring Survey (dogs only)**

In order to look into our quarantine system, the Rabies Antibody Titer Monitoring Survey (blood sampling) is conducted at the Narita International Airport, Tokyo International Airport (Haneda Airport), Chubu International Airport, and Kansai International Airport. Dogs are randomly selected for the survey in advance of arrival.

The importer will be notified if selected for the survey. We appreciate your cooperation.

### **If any problems are found in the inspection upon arrival**

If any problems are found upon arrival, the dog or cat will be subject to quarantine at the detention facility of Animal Quarantine Service [→ STEP 8-2]. Depending on the results of the import inspection, the dog or cat cannot be allowed to enter Japan.

If the importer wants the dog or cat to be returned without undergoing quarantine at the detention facility, these will be conducted under the directions of Animal Quarantine Service, but the procedures must be taken at the importer's own responsibility and expense. If the importer chooses to return the dog or cat to the exporting country, the importer should contact the authorities in charge of quarantine or the embassy of the country receiving the dog or cat and confirm the requirements.

## 2. Quarantine inspection at a detention facility of Animal Quarantine Service

If the requirements are not met, the dog or cat will be subject to quarantine at the detention facility of Animal Quarantine Service for the necessary period (up to 180 days). If no problems are found with the health condition of the dog or cat after completion of the quarantine period, an Import Quarantine Certificate will be granted and the dog or cat can be imported.

### Detention facility for quarantine

Quarantine is conducted at a detention facility of Animal Quarantine Service at the port of entry.

Animal Quarantine Service with a detention facility:

- ◆ Airport: Hokkaido sub-branch (Iburi branch office), Narita branch, Haneda Airport branch, Chubu Airport branch, Kansai Airport branch, Fukuoka Airport sub-branch, Kagoshima Airport sub-branch
- ◆ Seaport: Yokohama head office, Kobe branch, Osaka sub-branch, Moji branch, Okinawa branch

### Cost of quarantine inspection

The importer is responsible for all costs of quarantine other than the cost of inspections by Animal Quarantine Service.

- Cost of transportation from the port of entry to the detention facility (the importer cannot transport the dog or cat).
- Cost of caretaking during the quarantine (cost of food and cleaning/disinfection of cell)
- Lighting, heating and water expenses for detention facility
- Veterinarian's visiting fee (if necessary)
- Cost of reshipment
- Cost of restoration such as repairs to the detention facility
- Other necessary expenses

### Care of your pet during quarantine

The importer is responsible for caretaking and feeding during quarantine.

- At a detention facility where a caretaker company is stationed, the importer can entrust the caretaking and feeding duties to the caretaker.
- For information about the caretaking and feeding at a detention facility where a caretaker company is not stationed, contact Animal Quarantine Service.

Detention facilities where a caretaker company is stationed:

Narita branch, Haneda Airport branch, Kansai Airport branch

### Visits during quarantine

Visiting your dog or cat during quarantine is allowed, but the visiting hours and the visitors are restricted.

For further information, contact Animal Quarantine Service.

### If any problems are found during quarantine

If symptoms of rabies or, for dogs, leptospirosis is observed, the quarantine period may be extended and some additional examinations may be conducted.

### Precautions

- During quarantine, dogs and cats cannot be brought out of the detention facility under any circumstances, except when the dog or cat is returned to the exporting country.
- Medical treatments at the detention facility by a private veterinarian is allowed. You are strongly recommended to find a veterinarian, who can come to the detention facility for medical treatments, before starting quarantine.
- In terms of health care for dogs and cats during quarantine and sanitary control of the detention facility, vaccinations (combination vaccine) and parasite treatments [→ Reference 3] should be performed in advance in the exporting country.

## [Reference 1] Rabies vaccination administered before microchip implanting

Rabies vaccination administered before microchip implanting will be considered valid only when the following conditions are met.

You are strongly recommended to contact Animal Quarantine Service in advance.

### Eligible dogs and cats

- A rabies vaccination (rabies vaccination ①) was administered before the microchip was implanted.
- At least 91 days old at the time of rabies vaccination ① (the date of birth is counted as day 0).
- At least 30 days have passed from rabies vaccination ① (the day of vaccination is counted as day 0) and it is still within the effective period of rabies vaccination ①.

\*the effective period [→ STEP 2]

### Conditions

#### ◆ There are two ways:

\*① = the first time, ② = the second time

##### ● One time of rabies antibody test

Rabies vaccination ① → Microchip implanting\*<sup>1</sup> →

“Blood sampling for rabies antibody test + Rabies vaccination ② (\*Both must be performed on the same day)”\*<sup>1</sup>

(\*<sup>1</sup> Microchip implanting and “Blood sampling for rabies antibody test + Rabies vaccination ②” can be performed on the same day.)

##### ● Two times of rabies antibody tests

Rabies vaccination ① → Microchip implanting\*<sup>2</sup> → Blood sampling for rabies antibody test ①\*<sup>2</sup>  
→ Rabies vaccination ②\*<sup>3</sup> → Blood sampling for rabies antibody test ②\*<sup>3</sup>

(\*<sup>2</sup> Microchip implanting and the blood sampling for rabies antibody test ① can be performed on the same day.)

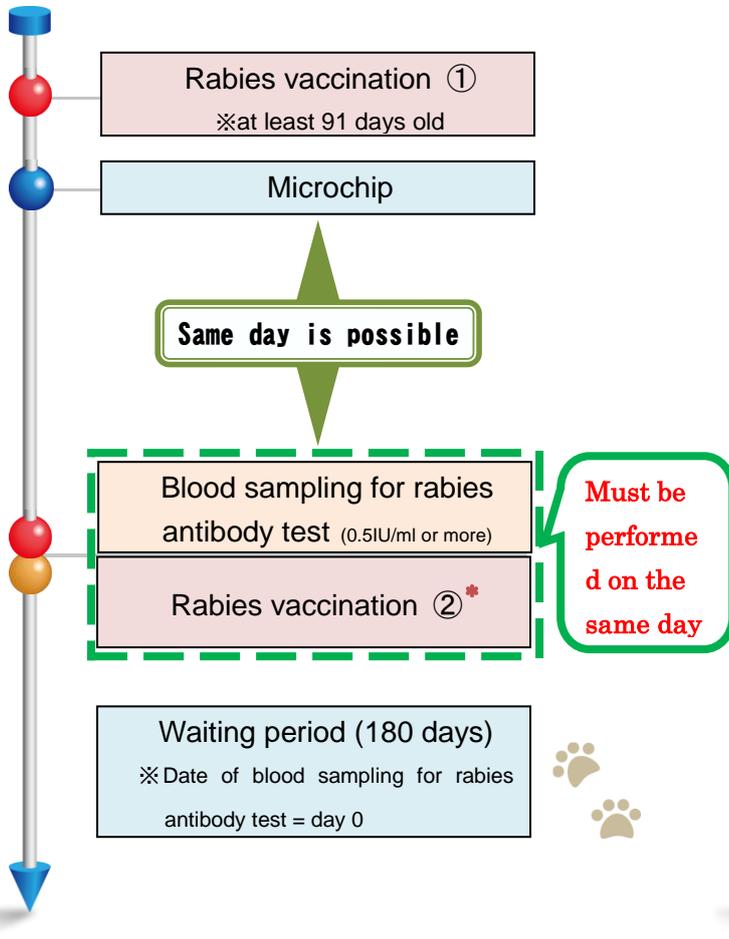
(\*<sup>3</sup> Rabies vaccination ② and the blood sampling for rabies antibody test ② can be performed on the same day.)

#### ◆ Both types must meet the following conditions:

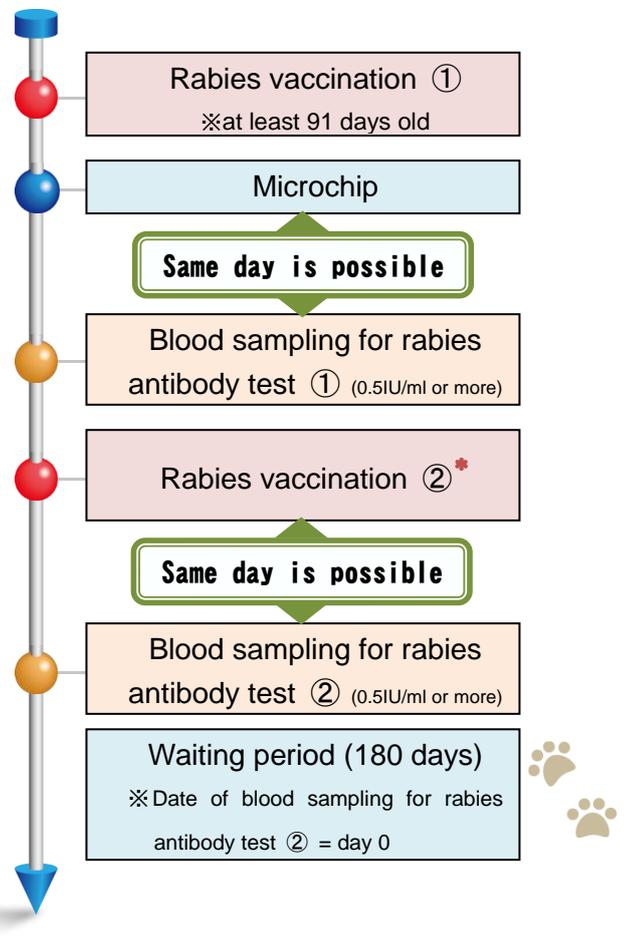
- The effective period from rabies vaccination ① continues with necessary additional rabies vaccinations.
- Inactivated (killed) virus vaccine or recombinant vaccine are used for rabies vaccinations. [→ STEP 2]
- All information of rabies vaccinations and rabies antibody tests must be mentioned on the certificates issued by the government authority of the exporting country. [→ STEP 7]

Flow chart for [Reference 1]

● One time of rabies antibody test



● Two times of rabies antibody tests



\*At least 30 days have passed from rabies vaccination ① (the date of rabies vaccination ① is counted as day 0) and it is still within the effective period of rabies vaccine ①

## [Reference 2] Notes for transportation

On transporting dogs and cats, the importer should note the following matters.

### 1. Ports of entry where import is allowed

Dogs can be imported only through the following ports.

Ports where cats can be imported are not restricted. If a port of entry other than those listed below is to be used for importing cats, contact Animal Quarantine Service in advance.

- ◆ Airport: New Chitose Airport, Narita International Airport, Tokyo International Airport (Haneda Airport), Chubu International Airport, Kansai International Airport, Kitakyushu Airport, Fukuoka Airport, Kagoshima Airport, Naha Airport
- ◆ Seaport: Tomakomai Seaport, Keihin Seaport (Tokyo, Yokohama), Nagoya Seaport, Hanshin Seaport (Osaka, Hyogo), Kanmon Seaport, Hakata Seaport, Kagoshima Seaport, Naha Seaport

### Precautions

- Dogs and cats that are subject to quarantine for more than 12 hours [→ STEP 8-2] must arrive at a port with a detention facility.

### 2. Health condition for transport

The following dogs or cats are not suited for transport or quarantine. If it is necessary to import such animals, we recommend you to contact your veterinarian in advance whether the dog or cat can endure the transportation and quarantined.

- ◆ Puppies, kittens or old age
- ◆ Pregnant or lactating
- ◆ With a history of illness, sickly, or currently receiving medication (other than for parasite treatment)
- ◆ Injured

### 3. Transport cage

The importer is responsible for choosing an appropriate transport cage that is not uncomfortable for the dog or cat but prevents their escape and ensures safe transport. For further information on the acceptable size or type of transport cages for boarding, contact the airline etc. to be used.

### 4. Types of transportation

There are two types of transportation: hand luggage (checked baggage) and cargo. For further information, contact the airline etc. to be used.

#### ◆ Hand luggage (checked baggage)

The dog or cat is to be transported as a carry-on baggage or checked baggage.

If boarded as checked baggage, the dog or cat will be picked up at the area where checked baggage is picked up.

#### ◆ Cargo

The dog or cat is to be transported as air cargo (or sea cargo).

For air cargo, an "AWB (Air Waybill)" is issued.

For sea cargo, a "B/L (Bill of Lading)" is issued.

Upon arrival in Japan, the dog or cat is transported to the cargo shed (bonded warehouse) in the cargo area.

Animal quarantine procedures are followed by customs procedures.

### Precautions

- Airlines etc. may apply various restrictions for transportation. For further information, contact the airline etc. to be used.

### [Reference 3] Recommended treatments (vaccinations, parasite treatment)

In terms of animal health care and sanitary control of the detention facility, the following treatments are recommended.

In particular, for dogs and cats subject to quarantine at a detention facility [→ STEP 8-2] upon arrival in Japan, vaccinations (combination vaccine) and parasite treatment should be performed in advance.

#### 1. Vaccinations (combination vaccine)

- ◆ For dogs: Distemper, canine adenovirus type 2, canine parvovirus disease, etc.
- ◆ For cats: Feline viral rhinotracheitis, feline calicivirus infection, feline panleukopenia, etc.

#### Precautions

- Dogs and cats should be vaccinated under the guidance of your veterinarian to give them sufficient antibodies.

#### 2. Treatment for external and internal parasites

- ◆ External parasites: fleas, ticks
- ◆ Internal parasites: nematodes, cestodes

#### Precautions

- The effect of treatment for parasites must be maintained at the time of arrival in Japan.

## C. List of Animal Quarantine Service

Name	Airport, Seaport	TEL	FAX	E-mail address
Hokkaido and Tohoku Branch	Tomakomai Seaport, New Chitose Airport	+81-123-24-6080	+81-123-24-6091	<a href="mailto:ags.spk@maff.go.jp">ags.spk@maff.go.jp</a>
Narita Branch, Contact desk for travel of dog & cat	Narita International Airport	+81-476-32-6664	+81-476-34-4261	<a href="mailto:ags.nrtr1@maff.go.jp">ags.nrtr1@maff.go.jp</a> (Terminal 1) <a href="mailto:ags.nrtr2@maff.go.jp">ags.nrtr2@maff.go.jp</a> (Terminal 2) <a href="mailto:ags.nrtcargo@maff.go.jp">ags.nrtcargo@maff.go.jp</a> (Cargo)
Haneda Airport Branch (Terminal 3)	Tokyo International Airport	+81-3-5757-9753	+81-3-5757-9759	<a href="mailto:ags.hnd@maff.go.jp">ags.hnd@maff.go.jp</a>
Haneda Airport Branch, Contact desk for travel of dog & cat	(Haneda Airport)	+81-3-5757-9752	+81-3-5757-9759	<a href="mailto:ags.hnd@maff.go.jp">ags.hnd@maff.go.jp</a>
Haneda Airport Branch (Cargo)	Tokyo International Airport (Haneda Airport) (Cargo)	+81-3-5757-9755	+81-3-5757-9760	<a href="mailto:ags.hndcargo@maff.go.jp">ags.hndcargo@maff.go.jp</a> (Cargo)
Yokohama Head Office Animal Quarantine Division	Keihin Seaport (Tokyo, Yokohama)	+81-45-751-5973	+81-45-751-5951	<a href="mailto:ags.yokdobutu@maff.go.jp">ags.yokdobutu@maff.go.jp</a>
Chubu Airport Branch	Chubu International Airport	+81-569-38-8577	+81-569-38-8585	<a href="mailto:ags.nga@maff.go.jp">ags.nga@maff.go.jp</a>
Nagoya Sub-branch	Nagoya Seaport	+81-52-651-0334	+81-52-661-0203	<a href="mailto:ags.ngo@maff.go.jp">ags.ngo@maff.go.jp</a>
Kansai Airport Branch, Contact desk for travel of dog & cat	Kansai International Airport	+81-72-455-1956	+81-72-455-1957	<a href="mailto:ags.kixk1@maff.go.jp">ags.kixk1@maff.go.jp</a>
Kansai Airport Branch, Except for the above		+81-72-455-1986		
Kansai Airport Branch (Cargo)		+81-72-455-1958	+81-72-455-1959	<a href="mailto:ags.kixcargo@maff.go.jp">ags.kixcargo@maff.go.jp</a>
Kobe Branch	Hanshin Seaport (Hyogo)	+81-78-222-8990	+81-78-222-8993	<a href="mailto:ags.ukb@maff.go.jp">ags.ukb@maff.go.jp</a>
Osaka Sub-branch	Hanshin Seaport (Osaka)	+81-6-6575-3466	+81-6-6575-0977	<a href="mailto:ags.osa@maff.go.jp">ags.osa@maff.go.jp</a>
Moji Branch	Kanmon Seaport, Kitakyushu Airport	+81-93-321-1116	+81-93-332-5858	<a href="mailto:ags.moj@maff.go.jp">ags.moj@maff.go.jp</a>
Hakata Sub-branch	Hakata Seaport	+81-92-262-5285	+81-92-262-5283	<a href="mailto:ags.hkt@maff.go.jp">ags.hkt@maff.go.jp</a>
Fukuoka Airport Sub-branch	Fukuoka Airport	+81-92-477-0080	+81-92-477-7580	<a href="mailto:ags.fuk@maff.go.jp">ags.fuk@maff.go.jp</a>
Kagoshima Airport Sub-branch	Kagoshima Airport, Kagoshima Seaport	+81-995-43-9061	+81-995-43-9066	<a href="mailto:ags.kop@maff.go.jp">ags.kop@maff.go.jp</a>
Okinawa Branch	Naha Seaport	+81-98-861-4370	+81-98-862-0093	<a href="mailto:ags.nah@maff.go.jp">ags.nah@maff.go.jp</a>
Naha Airport Sub-branch	Naha Airport	+81-98-857-4468	+81-98-859-1646	<a href="mailto:ags.nap@maff.go.jp">ags.nap@maff.go.jp</a>

## D. Management after import into Japan

The owner must obey the domestic laws after importing dogs and cats.

### 1. Registration with municipality (only for dogs)

Under the Rabies Prevention Law, dogs must be registered with the municipality where they are kept.

The owner must bring the “Import Quarantine Certificate for Dogs”, issued by Animal Quarantine Service, to the municipality for registration within 30 days of import.

For further information, contact the municipality office.

### 2. Rabies vaccination (only for dogs)

Under the Rabies Prevention Law, dogs must be vaccinated against rabies once a year.

For further information, contact the municipality office.

### 3. Microchip registration (optional)

The microchip number (currently only those in accordance with ISO standards) can be registered domestically with a copy of the “Import Quarantine Certificate,” issued by Animal Quarantine Service.

When a lost dog or cat is found in Japan, its owner can be identified if the microchip number is registered. For further information, contact AIPO (Animal ID Promotion Organization).

- ◆ AIPO (Animal ID Promotion Organization) office: Japan Veterinary Medical Association  
Phone: 03-3475-1695 Fax: 03-3475-1697

### Precautions

- Import Quarantine Certificate will be necessary to export the dog or cat that has been imported into Japan.
- If you are planning to export your dog or cat, apply for export to Animal Quarantine Service at least 7 days prior to export.