

**Preparing Dogs and Cats to go to Japan
(to Qualify for 12 Hours or Less Program)**

Microchip Application:

ISO standard microchip (e.g. HomeAgain 134 kHz) should be applied to the pet. If non-ISO standard microchip is placed, owners may need to provide their own microchip reader. However, some non-ISO standard microchips can be read with readers available in Japan. Please contact Japan Animal Quarantine Station for further information on what microchip readers are available. Microchip must be verified every time pet comes in. If microchip is not detected at time of inspection in Japan, this pet will not be able to enter Japan.

Microchip Application Date: _____

Rabies Vaccination:

After the microchip application, 2 sets of Rabies vaccines (killed or recombinant) must be given at least 30 days apart and within the valid period of the first vaccine.* **RABIES VACCINE MUST BE CURRENT AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO JAPAN.** If Rabies vaccine expires, prior Rabies vaccines and titer test will become invalid!

1st Rabies Vaccination Date: _____

2nd Rabies Vaccination Date: _____

*For those pets that had received Rabies vaccine(s) prior to microchip application, if the most recent Rabies vaccine is not expired, preparation time can be shortened by 30 days **IF RABIES BOOSTER VACCINE AND RABIES TITER ARE PERFORMED ON SAME DAY AFTER MICROCHIP**

IS APPLIED. (MICROCHIP CAN BE APPLIED ON SAME DAY AS WELL. However, to qualify for this modification, Rabies vaccine and titer CANNOT be separated.) The titer result must be at or above 0.5 IU/mL. Please continue to read further for information about Rabies FAVN titer test.

Rabies FAVN Titer Test:

After the second Rabies vaccine is given**, a blood sample is taken and submitted to approved Rabies Laboratory for Rabies FAVN titer test (e.g. Kansas State University Rabies Laboratory). There is a turn around time of approximately 4 to 6 weeks for the titer test. Titer must be equal or above 0.5 IU/mL and is valid for 2 years. If Rabies titer result is NOT sufficient, Rabies vaccine and Rabies titer must be repeated (done on same day or separately at veterinarian's discretion). If pet is not going to Japan within 2 years, another titer test must be performed. Rabies vaccine must be up to date at all times. Even if last Rabies FAVN titer expires, if Rabies vaccine has been up to date since last titer test and most recent Rabies titer test result is sufficient, another 180 day waiting period will not recur. However, if this new Rabies titer result is INSUFFICIENT, Rabies vaccine and titer (allow 2 to 3 weeks after vaccine for titer to develop) will need to be repeated AND 180 day waiting period WILL recur, which starts on the day blood is taken for the most recent titer. It is always recommended to start process to go to Japan as early as possible, at least 8 months before travelling to Japan.

Date Blood Drawn for Rabies Titer: _____

**Rabies titer can be performed on same day as 2nd Rabies vaccine if pet is believed to have enough anti-Rabies antibodies. As a general rule, if pet is a puppy/kitten or hasn't had Rabies vaccine for a long time, it is best to wait 2 to 3 weeks after 2nd Rabies vaccine before drawing blood sample for Rabies titer.

180-day Waiting Period:

In order to qualify for 12 hour or less program, a pet must go through 180-day waiting period in the exporting country. The waiting period starts on THE DAY THE BLOOD SAMPLE IS TAKEN FOR RABIES FAVN TITER. If a pet arrives in Japan before the waiting period is passed, that pet will be placed in quarantine at Animal Quarantine for those insufficient number of days (up to 180 days). Owner will be responsible for all expenses necessary for quarantine.

Advanced Notification:

AT LEAST 40 DAYS prior to arriving in Japan, owner must prepare and submit a document titled “Notification for Import of Dogs Under the Rabies Prevention Law and the Domestic Animal Infectious Disease Control Law” (for dogs) or “Notification of Import of Animals Under the Rabies Prevention Law” (for other animals). This document is to be submitted to an Animal Quarantine Station at the port of entry (e.g. Narita Airport, Haneda Airport, etc.). The document may be downloaded from their website (<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/>) or owner may use their online service for notification process.

Approval Of Import Inspection of animals:

After the Animal Quarantine Station review all the information in the notification, they will issue “Approval of Import Inspection of Animals,” which will be emailed, faxed, or mailed to the importer. This is a very important document. Please make sure that owner receives it and retains it in a safe place.

Health Examination Prior to Departure:

Within 10 days prior to departure to Japan (counting departure day as 1 day), pet must have a physical examination to verify that there are no signs of Rabies and/or Leptospirosis (Leptospirosis for dogs only). It is also highly recommended (but not required) to have the pets dewormed against intestinal parasites and treated for external parasites. All necessary documents will be reviewed: Approval of Import, original copy of Rabies Titer Result (one with sticker), Form A (owner fills out. Best unsigned until day of appointment), Form C (examining veterinarian fills out), USDA APHIS health certificate Form 7001 (prepared and signed by examining veterinarian), Rabies vaccine certificates.

Appointment Date: _____

Endorsement of All Documents by the Responsible Exporting Country Government Agency:

Owner (Importer) must take all signed documents to an USDA office in El Segundo (or local USDA office if not in CA) for endorsement with official signature, stamp/seal, and date.

USDA Quarantine Centers and Port of Entry
222 Kansas St.
El Segundo, CA 90245
(310)-955-3311

Documents for endorsement accepted: M-F 7:30 AM to 11:00 AM.

Pets do not need to be present for endorsement.

Notification Prior to Arrival:

One to few days prior to arrival in Japan, owner should contact the Animal Quarantine Station to notify approval number, flight number, scheduled arrival airport/seaport, and scheduled arrival date and time. This will help the process go more smoothly.

Other Recommendations:

The following vaccinations are recommended to be given at least 30 days prior to the departure:

Dogs: Distemper-Adenovirus Type II (Canine Infectious Hepatitis)-Parvovirus Combo vaccine. Parainfluenza, Leptospirosis, Coronavirus vaccines are suggested.

Cats: Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis-Feline Calicivirus-Feline Panleukopenia Combo vaccine

Transport Cage/Carrier:

Place each pet in a separate cage whenever possible.

Make sure that the transport cage complies with International Air Transport Association (IATA) guidelines, where it states that animal must have room to stand, sit, lay down, and turn its body around and that it provides adequate ventilation. Also to prevent any escapes, choose a cage that pet is not able to stick its nose or legs through any openings or wired cage door.