

IMPORT CONDITIONS FOR IMPORT OF PET DOGS AND CATS INTO BHUTAN

1. Eligibility

Eligibility is limited to breeds of domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) and domestic cats (*Felis catus*) that are approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock for the purpose of companion and breeding.

- 1.1. The animal must not be more than 42 days pregnant at the date of entry.
- 1.2. Pet animals must be a minimum of 60 days old for import.

2. Pre-Export isolation (PEI)

- 2.1. The pet is free from clinical signs or symptoms of infectious or contagious diseases and fit to travel within 24 hours.
- 2.2. The pet has been treated with broad-spectrum endo-parasiticide and ecto-parasiticide drugs at least one week before the date of entry and must be free of parasites upon entry.

3. Diagnostic testing, vaccination and treatment

- 3.1. Pet animals that have never been vaccinated against rabies must be vaccinated with inactivated rabies vaccine not less than 30 days prior to the date of entry. In the case of booster vaccination, the animal should be vaccinated not more than one year prior to its entry.
- 3.2. The pet animal has been vaccinated against canine distemper, parvovirus, infectious canine hepatitis and *Leptospira interrogans Canicola* and *Leptospira interrogans Icterohaemorrhagiae* at least 30 days before the date of entry.
- 3.3. The pet animal has been subjected to a rabies antibody test (as prescribed in the WOA Manual) on a sample collected not less than three months and not more than 12 months prior to the date of entry, with a result of at least 0.5 IU/ml.

4. Transport

- 4.1. The container for pet animals must meet the International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards and be clean, dry, and free of pests.
- 4.2. The pet animals must be in a crate or a cage for land transport.
- 4.3. The animals must not come in contact with other animals during transport and transit to the destination.

5. Post-arrival inspection and quarantine

- 5.1. Advance notification of arrival must be sent to the BFDA quarantine office at least 7 days prior to the scheduled time of arrival (toll free 1555).

- 5.2. Post-arrival veterinary inspection and document verification shall be done by the designated BFDA officials. The documentation will be checked to ensure it meets all requirements for import of the pet animals.
- 5.3. The pet animals that are for commercial purposes are required to undergo quarantine at the designated facility for a period of 15 days or until all biosecurity requirements have been met.
- 5.4. The pet animals that are not for commercial purposes shall be home quarantined. The importers shall comply with any post-import measures imposed by the BFDA.
- 5.5. The owner must also submit an undertaking letter stating that he will comply with the home quarantine requirements.
- 5.6. All pet animals must be microchipped and registered in the nearest animal health center prior to release from quarantine.
- 5.7. BFDA officials should provide details of pet animals imported to the nearest animal health centers for microchipping.
- 5.8. The attached model Veterinary certificate should be produced at the time of import.
- 5.9. The pet animals must be identifiable with the documents produced at the points of entry.
- 5.10. The zoo sanitary certificate should be written in English.

Note: The import conditions are subject to change as and when the disease situation changes.

6. Documents that must accompany the consignment

- 6.1. Veterinary certificate for import of live animals (Model Veterinary certificate attached).
- 6.2. Relevant supporting documents for veterinary certificate such as lab certificate etc.
- 6.3. Valid import permit.

Note: These conditions will also apply to all the tourists and temporary visitors in the country.