

July 2004

IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORT OF DOGS, CATS AND FERRETS INTO NORWAY FROM THE UNITED STATES

The new rules are based on Commission Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 and concern only pets which are accompanied by their owner or person responsible for them on behalf of the owner and which are not intended to be sold or transferred.

The animal must be accompanied by the owner or a natural person responsible for such animal on behalf of the owner during their movement and must not intended to be sold or transferred to another owner. If the number of animals imported is more than five, the conditions of so called commercial imports apply.

1. Identification

The animal must be identified by a microchip or clearly readable tattoo. If the microchip does not comply with ISO Standard 11784 or Annex A to ISO Standard 11785, the importer must provide the means necessary for reading the microchip. As of 3 July 2011 only a microchip will be approved as identification. The animal must be identified before the rabies vaccination. The information on the identification of the animal must also be entered to the vaccination certificates.

2. Vaccination against rabies

The animal must have been vaccinated against rabies with an inactivated vaccine of at least one antigenic unit per dose (WHO standard). The rabies vaccination and revaccination, if necessary, must have been carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturing laboratory. In addition a neutralizing antibody titration at least equal to 0,5 IU/ml must have been carried out in an approved laboratory on a sample within 120 and 365 days after the latest vaccination. This antibody titration does not need to be repeated on an animal which, following that titration, has been regularly revaccinated at the intervals without a break in the vaccination protocol required by the manufacturing laboratory.

3. Echinococcus treatment

Dogs and cats must have had a tapeworm (echinococcus) treatment with an appropriate dosage of medicine containing praziquantel no more than 10 days before arriving in Norway. This treatment shall also be repeated within 7 days after arriving. Both treatments, including the name and dosage of the medicine shall be certified in the certificate.

4. Veterinary certificate (or pet passport)

The animal must be accompanied by a veterinary certificate issued by an official veterinarian or a veterinary surgeon authorized by the competent authority of the country of dispatch (third country) carrying the information on the animal's identification, rabies vaccination, neutralizing antibody titration and echinococcus treatment. A certificate which is not issued by an official veterinarian must be endorsed by the competent authority of the country of dispatch. The entry concerning the medication against echinococcosis must be made by a veterinarian authorized to practice veterinary medicine in the country of dispatch. The certificate must be filled out in Norwegian or English. The veterinary certificate must be accompanied by supporting documentation (or certified

copy of it) including vaccination details. The original documents must also carry the information concerning the identification of the animal.

If a pet animal originally comes from an EU country and it is accompanied by a pet passport carrying the information required for import, the pet passport replaces the veterinary certificate.

5. Customs control

All pet animals imported to Norway shall be controlled by the customs at the border (red zone). The border veterinarian is to be noticed 48 hours prior to arrival. See below.

6. Quarantine (Does not normally apply for USA.)

Animals that do not fulfill the requirements must spend at least 4 months at an approved quarantine facility in Norway. Additionally they must spend 2 months in "home quarantine" isolated from other animals unless the animal has stayed only in EU-countries during the latest 7 months and in that period has been brought in compliance with the conditions for quarantine-free import into Norway. A quarantine stay must always be arranged previous to importation, by registering the animal at the quarantine and the authority.

For guide dogs and Norwegian service dogs that have been in active service abroad there is no quarantine.

If an animal imported to Norway does not meet the requirements described above, by an official decision of the authority the animal is:

- a) returned to the country of origin, or
- b) isolated under official control at the cost of the importer for the time necessary for it to meet the requirements, or
- c) as a last resort, where its return or isolation in quarantine is not possible, put down at the cost of the importer.

Contact information:

Norwegian Food Safety Authority

Visiting address: Ullevålsveien 76

Mailing address: PO Box 383, N-2381 Brumunddal, Norway

Telephone: (+ 47) 23 21 68 00

Telefax: (+ 47) 23 21 68 01

Border veterinarian:

Gardermoen (Oslo)

Telephone: (+ 47) 64 82 04 00

Telefax: (+ 47) 64 82 04 01

E-mail: BIP.Gardermoen@mattilsynet.no