

Ministerial Resolution number (204) of the year 2016

Concerning the regulation of import of cats and dogs

Minister of Climate Change and Environment

After perusing the federal law number 1/1972 concerning the functions of Ministries and powers of Ministers and amendments thereof,

The federal law number 6/1979 concerning the veterinary quarantine and amendments thereof,

The federal law number 8/2013 concerning the protection and control of infectious and contagious animal diseases and its by-law

Ministerial resolution number 460/2001 concerning the executive by-law of the veterinary Quarantine law of the Arab Gulf cooperation Council

Based on the conditions set forth in OIE(Animal Health International Organization) code 2015 and the concern of the Ministry to implement its strategy of protection from agro-pest and animal contagious diseases and strengthening food safety in the country ,

And according to the public interest requirements,

Has decided ,

Article (1)

Objective

This resolution aims to set the terms and conditions for regulating the import of cats and dogs and their transit within the concern of the Ministry to prevent contagious and infectious animal diseases.

Article (2)

General provisions

1. The Animal Health and Development Department will review the annexes herein and amend them and study the alternatives of the requirement in accordance to the updates of OIE guidelines and import risk assessment.
2. It is not allowed to import the Dog breeds set on annex number (1) with an exception for the import requests for the governmental institutes of security and defence.
3. For trade import purposes , it is required to obtain an animal activity license from the Ministry.
4. Governmental authorities are exempted from the animal activity license condition to allow them import cats and dogs.
5. Personal import is allowed for maximum quantity of 2 cats or 2 dogs or one cat and one dog annually.
6. It is allowed to same animal to enter and exit in a condition the it is identified by a permanent identification tool and comply with the health conditions mentioned in this resolution

Article (3)

Exporting States

1. Countries will be classified to risk level of Rabies into the following groups:
 - a. Low risk Countries : They are listed in annex (2) herein, not recorded rabies cases during a minimum a previous period of two years according to the OIE periodic reports on condition that Rabies is a notifiable disease.
 - b. High risk Countries : They are the other Countries that don't comply with the conditions set in paragraph 1.a of this article.
2. The Animal Health and Development Department will review and amend the Countries classification in annex number (2) herein in the following cases :
 - a. Alteration of the health situation of the exporting Country that requires amendment in risk level.
 - b. Any future amendment in health conditions or in the health measures which mentioned in the Health certificate model set in annex number (3) herein

Article (4)

Import conditions

1. a prior import permit shall be obtained from the Ministry for importing cats and dogs.
2. Cats and dogs will shipped in the luggage compartment rather than with the passengers and according to IATA conditions for pet animal transport.
3. The cats and dogs must be identified with a permanent microchip , and the chip number in the health certificate must conform with the chip No. which the animal bears.
4. The imported cats and dogs shall be accompanied with the following:
 - a. Authorized health certificate issued from the competent veterinary authorities in line with health certificate model provided in annex number (3) herein.
 - b. Vaccination document or passport which must include the animal microchip number , animal full description (species – color – sex – date of birth – any other distinguished marks) and fully meet all vaccinations in annex number (4)herein , and including vaccine name , manufacturing company , batch number , vaccination date , vaccine labels and any treatments given to the animal.
 - c. In case of import from a high risk Country, Testing certificate from a laboratory approved by the competent authorities in the exporting country done during a minimum period of 12 weeks and not more than 12 months prior to shipment date showing that the animals have been subject to (Antibody Titration Test) for rabies after a period not less than 21 days following the last date of basic (Initial) vaccination or that was after a booster dose in a previous valid vaccination period with a minimum level of (IU/ml 0.5) . This certificate can be substituted by recording the test result in the health certificate in paragraph 4-a of this article.
5. The minimum age of an imported animal from the low risk countries will be 15 weeks in a condition that his age not less than 12 weeks when vaccinated and in accordance to the manufacturing company and minimum age of 27 weeks from the high risk countries.
6. Consignments of cats and dogs will be shipped directly from the exporting country and in case that the consignment will cross any other country , it must not mix with other pet animals during transit and that will be attested in the annex of the health certificate
7. In case an animal arrives from a high risk Country through a low risk Country of rabies , it must stay a minimum period of 6 months in the import country or undergoes the antibody Titration test for Rabies after a minimum period of 21 days following the last date of basic (initial) vaccination or was vaccinated during a pervious valid vaccine period with a minimum level of (IU/ml 0.5) .
8. Cats and dogs must be transported in clean boxes or cages.
9. Animal welfare Legislation and standards must be considered.

Article (5)

Cats and dogs residing in UAE

To obtain an import permit for returning cats and dogs residing in UAE, in case they leave it , they must comply with the following health and technical requirements:

- A. Identified by microchip .
- b. accompanied with authorized veterinary certificate issued by the competent authorities in the exporting country.
- c. vaccinated against rabies prior exiting UAE, and this vaccination is valid on returning and in case that the vaccine is not valid before the returning , the animal will be dealt with the conditions of first import of dogs and cats
- d. They will be accompanied with a copy of the veterinary health certificate issued by the Ministry while exiting.

Article (6)

Terms of Transit consignments (Transit)

Transit consignment will be subject to (Transit) the following terms :

1. In case of air transit in the same airport or marine transit in the same seaport, a transit permit is not required on condition that the animals shall be isolated from others.
2. A prior transit permit must be obtained from the Ministry for cats and dogs which cross the country as a transit consignment (Transit) . They shall be accompanied with a veterinary health certificate or a vaccination document which shows that the animal has been vaccinated for rabies and an import permit (No. objection) from the importing state . And the animals will be treated as those imported in respect of countries classification according to risk level.
3. Animal welfare Legislation and standards must be considered.

Article (7)

Releasing procedure

The Releasing procedures which mentioned in the approved Ministry operating guide must be followed and assurance that the consignment is fulfil all health requirements herein and it is not allowed to enter the country except after be sure of its safety

Article (8)

Veterinary Quarantine procedures

The following Parties and departments are specialized in the procedures hereunder:

*** The Agricultural and Animal Affairs Sector - Animal Health and Development Department ;**

- Follow the developments of countries epidemic situation, amending importing country classification and investigating fulfilment of health requirements provided for in the Veterinary health certificate model in annex (3) herein.
- Amending the restricted dog breeds listed in annex (1) herein.
- Developing procedures and requirements in annexes herein based on the updates OIE guidelines or import risk assessment.
- Coordinating with the veterinary authorities in the exporting countries to study the proposed health certificate model for approval.
- Circulating periodically updates of state classification list and the restricted dog species

***Sector of Regions**

- Circulating the approved health certificate on the departments of regions.
- Circulating periodically the updated importing state classification list on the departments of regions.
- Send the consignments monthly reports to the Animal Health and Development Department including number, species and origins of animals and reasons of refusing consignments.
- Circulating and disseminating the periodic updated export countries classification list for customers and the e- programme in cooperation with the Information Technology Department.

Article (9)

Violating consignment

1- In case of not committing to or infringing implementation of the required health conditions:

- The consignment will be refused and returned to the country of origin or destroyed subject to the quarantine and health procedures being observed in the UAE and then exporting country will be notified thereon.
- In case of receiving a repeated infringing consignment from the country of origin , then import will be suspended temporarily pending the assessment of the situation and correcting it.

2- In case of arriving of animals which fulfil all the requirements inhere except the Laboratory test mentioned in article(3) and after assure the required vaccination, it is allowed to get sample and do the laboratory test (Rabies Antibody Titration Test) and the animal will be kept in quarantine and not released before the results come with a titre not less than 0.5 IU/ml and the importer will pay all the fees for the test and quarantine

Article (10)

Importer Obligations

The importer must :

- Obtain the necessary approvals to complete import or transit process.
- Follow up import requirement application
- Feed the animals during quarantine
- Obay the veterinary quarantine procedures.

Article (11)

The exporting countries shall amend the health certificate models used in exporting cats and dogs subject to the model set forth in annex (3) herein during six months effective the date of issuance of this resolution

Article (12)

All the concerned authorities in UAE shall execute the terms herein in respect of their responsibilities

Article (13)

All the resolutions contradicting herein will be cancelled and it will be enforced after 6 months of its issuance date and published in the official gazette.

Dr. Thani Ahmed AlZayoudi
Minister of Climate Change and Environment

Issued by us on:

Date : 11 / Rajab / 1437 H.

Corresponding to : 18 / April / 2016 G.

Annexes

Annex No. (1) : Restricted Dogs Species import :

Ban on the following dog strains and species import into the United Arab Emirates:

Pit Bulls	Staffordshire Bull Terrier breed of dog
	American Pit Bull Terrier breed of dog
	American Staffordshire Terrier breed of dog
	American Bully
Mastiff Dogs	Brazilian Mastiff (Fila Brasileiro)
	Argentinian Mastiff (Dogo Argentino)
	Any Mastiff or Hybrid
Tosa	Japanese tosa or hybrid
Rottweilers breed or hybrid	
Doberman Pinschers	
Canario Presa	
Boxer	
Any mixed breed of above breeds of dog or their Hybrid	

Annex No. (2) : List of low risk classified states in respect of rabies

Australia, Austria, Andorra, Aruba, Barbados, Bahrain, Belgium, Comoros, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, French Polynesia, Islands Falklands, Germany, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Mauritius, Malta, new Caledonia, new Zealand, Portugal, Qatar, Singapore, San Marino, Seychelles, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Vanuatu

Annex No. (3) : Model of Veterinary Health certificate for Exporting Cats and Dogs into the United Arab Emirates

Country of Origin

1.2 Certificate No.	1.1 Sender Name :				
1.3 Veterinary Authority	Address				
1.4 Consignee Name : Address:					
1.6 Region / Facility	1.5 ISO CODE Country of origin				
1.8 Facility in final destination	1.7 Importing country United Arab Emirates				
1.9 Place of origin (Name – Address)					
1.11 Date of shipping	1.10 shipping station				
1.13 Border post	1.12 Transport means by (Air – Sea – land)				
1.14 Import type Trade Personal					
1.16 For import : Final import - Temporary entry	1.15 Name of animal				
1.17 Microchip No.					
1.19 Date of birth/ age	1.18 Breed (Pure – Hybrid)				
Cat Dog :Animal species					
1.21 Animal descriptions (Colour-hair - any other identifying marks)					
<p>b-1, the undersigned government veterinarian in-charge certify that the animal of the above descriptions is satisfying the following conditions:</p> <p>1. The animal exporting country did not record Rabies for at least the two years prior to export (to low risk countries)</p> <p>2. The animal has been vaccinated as mentioned below.</p>					
Firstly : Required dog vaccinations					
Vaccination type	Vaccination date	Batch No.	Manufacturer	Vaccine name	Notices
Rabies Vaccine					The dog fulfills immunization with anti-vaccine disease according to manufacturer providing that animal's age on

					beginning of vaccination 12 weeks
Canine Distemper Virus (CDV)					
Canine Parvovirus					
Infectious Canine Hepatitis					
Leptospirosis (Ictohaemorrhagea & Canicola)					
Secondly: Required Cat vaccines					
Rabies					
Feline Panleukopenia Virus					
Feline Rhinotracheitis					
Feline Calicivirus (In cats)					

Rabies vaccine tests : (Specific for import from high risk states)

The animal has been vaccinated in a lab. Approved for Antibody Titration Tests on Rabies , the result was ≤ 0.5 (IU) as set in here below.

Name and address of official diagnosing Laboratory

Neutral antibody level result (IU/ml)	Testing technique	Sample – taking date Day– Month - Year

-The animal received internal and external parasite protective doses during the 14 days prior to export.

- The animal was visually examined during the 24 hours prior to shipping and showed no signs of the disease.

Animal transport : The animal described in the certificate was transported in a box or cage , transport was satisfying conditions

- Clean and disinfected

- Allows for good ventilation

- Designed to cause no leakages or animal remnant dropping (such as dung , urine ,)

- Allowing cleaning and disinfection

- Allowing viewing and visual testing

Veterinarian in – charge

Name and address

Position

Date : Signature

Official stamp

* Alternatives of import requirement conditions will be specified subject to the risk level which determine by Animal Health and Development department

Attestation

(In case of crossing of other countries before reaching UAE)

I am the undersigned / owner / carrier representative / holder for the described animal :

Species:

Type:

Colour :

Date of Birth:

Identification (No. of Microchip)

That the referred animal did not mix with any other animals while crossing through

Signor

The name:

Adjective :

Signature :

(Stamped in the ureter to acknowledge the carrier site)

Annex No. (4) : Required vaccinations for cats and dogs

Firstly : Required Dog vaccinations:

1. Rabies : the animal will satisfy the disease anti-vaccine according to the instructions of the manufacturer provided that the minimum animal age , three months effective beginning of vaccination and the period never be less than 21 days prior to freight
2. Canine Distemper Virus (CDV)
3. Canine parvovirus
4. Infectious canine Hepatitis
5. Leptospirosis

Secondly : Required cat vaccination

1. Rabies : the animal will satisfy the disease anti-vaccine according to the instructions of the manufacturer provided that the minimum animal age , three months effective beginning of vaccination and the period never be less than 21 days prior to freight .
2. Feline Panleukopenia virus
3. Feline Rhinotracheitis
4. Feline Calicivirus (in cats)

Annex No. (5) : Occupational health and safety procedures on testing cats and dogs and dealing with them as following:

1. Prior to starting work :

- Ensuring that all protective clothes are put on before dealing with animals (Petticoat, glasses, gloves, masks)
- Making certain that animal control is complete , animal's owner will be present on testing the his animal.
- Ensuring presence of enough workers and assistants g up animal control procedures.
- Follow the secure ways to control the animals

In- Work

- Following up the personal protective condition technique on dealing with animals
- Ensuring no leakage or pollution

3- On work completion:

- Hygienic disposal of the disposal equipment and supplies
- Sterilizing place of testing if polluted with the infected or suspected animal secretions.