



Pet Travel to the United Arab Emirates

Know Before You Go

- General Requirements for pet import to the United Arab Emirates

**Entry of pets to United Arab Emirates requires an Import Permit from the Ministry of Environment & Water. Documents are required to get this.*

The following documents are required for entry:

1. **Vaccination Card/Certificate** for each pet dog or cat. [more info on vaccines](#)
2. **Owner's passport copy** [more info on passport](#)
3. **Microchip number** - *the number should be clearly marked on the vaccine book or on a microchip certificate* [more info on microchips](#)

(fax or e-mail will do – originals not required for permit application)

New Rabies Rules **New regulations exist for Rabies control – some pets will need rabies tests in advance of entry* [more info on rabies tests](#)

Our services include:

- Import Permit application & delivery to local ministry office
- Import permit collection
- Customs clearing & collection from airport cargo section (all pet imports should be as manifest cargo – accompanied baggage is prohibited)
- Delivery to residence if required
- Boarding arrangement if required (subject to availability – holiday times are best booked early)
- Coordination with your agent in departure location.

Please note: The UAE authorities won't issue import papers more than one month in advance.

[back](#)

NOTES

1. Microchips

- a. are tiny identification devices that your vet can easily implant under your pets skin.
- b. A scanning device is used to locate the chip and recognise its unique number.
- c. This number is used on official documentation, which must match the number scanned on the pet.
- d. The ISO (International Standards Organisation) microchip meeting specifications 11784 or Annex A of ISO Standard 11785 are generally preferred but, to date, other chip types are still recognised.
- e. Ask your vet about microchips. [back](#)

2. Owners Passport copy [back](#)

- a. The main pages with photograph and owner data are required.
- b. The visa page is not required.

3. Vaccine records [back](#)

- a. Must show current rabies vaccine status.
- b. Must show date of birth
 - i. estimate a date if not known
 - ii. do not write an age in lieu of a date
- c. Rabies vaccines must have been updated within the previous year.
- d. If only one rabies vaccine has been given (often the case with puppies or kittens) at least 30 days must elapse before the pet is eligible to travel

NOTE: Rabies vaccines are not given until pets are 12 weeks old. The minimum travel age for young animals is therefore 16 weeks.

[back](#)

4. Delivery Location Map

- a. Supply a map if you want BVC to deliver your pet to a location in the UAE
 - i. NOTE that formal addresses are still very rarely used in the UAE – maps should show general area, main landmarks and any other helpful information.
- b. Include your contact telephone number at the time of arrival
- c. Inability to make contact on arrival will result in your pet's delivery to the BVC or BVC approved boarding facility with resulting charges made.

[back](#)

British Veterinary Centre
30th (Khaleej Al Arabi) Street
Khalidya, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Tel + 971 (0)2 6650085, Fax +971 (0)84 280304
E-mail: info@britvet.ae web www.britvet.com

More explanation...

The following regulations are important so please read carefully. Failure to follow procedures can result in delayed or cancelled flights. Although the bureaucracy can be tiresome, the aim is to ensure safe and efficient transport of your pet.

Vaccine Status & Age of Pet:

Summary – Pets must be at least 4 month old and properly vaccinated against Rabies.

The UAE does not permit the import of pets which are too young to be administered a rabies vaccination. This means that your pet needs to be at least four months old at the time of travel. Your pet can be vaccinated at three months but vaccines don't work instantly; another 30 days must elapse prior to import, the time taken for the vaccine to be fully effective. Vaccines also lose their effect over time. Some rabies vaccines are effective for 2 or even 3 years – it depends on the brand your vet has chosen. While the UAE may accept officially documented vaccines with 2 or 3-year validity, it is safest to have rabies vaccines boosted within a year of travel.

We at the BVC advise that your pets are vaccinated as follows;

Cats: are commonly vaccinated against

- a) cat flu (two types - calicivirus and herpesvirus (rhinotracheitis),
- b) enteritis (parvovirus),
- c) leukemia (if at risk) and
- d) rabies (**Mandatory**)

There is a high street-cat density in the UAE due to the accessibility of excess waste food in open skips. The street level disease incidence is, therefore, higher than in many other regions and it is strongly recommended that cats are properly vaccinated. Indoor cats are not free from disease risk, contrary to popular opinion. Feline enteritis is a tough virus and can be carried indirectly on people's shoes, right into your pets' environment. The unvaccinated pet is at risk, even if living in an apartment. On the other hand feline leukaemia does not spread easily by indirect transmission. This more fragile virus does not survive for long outside the affected animal so is of less risk. It is most spread by closer contact with infected cats. If your pet lives in isolation he/she does not require feline leukaemia vaccination but should have the others.

Dogs: are commonly vaccinated against

- a) distemper,
- b) hepatitis,
- c) parvovirus,
- d) leptospirosis,
- e) parainfluenza virus and
- f) rabies. **(Mandatory)**
- g) Coronavirus and bordetella can also be added to the regime and special situations may require additional disease cover, depending on where you intend to take your pet. Bordetella is often best used strategically as immunity to this nose drop vaccine is relatively short-lived and should be timed to coincide with increased risk such as kenneling during holidays.

When to Vaccinate - (BVC policy - other vets may differ on this standard routine)

Primary Vaccination Course

Kittens from 6 weeks old

- Boost every 3 weeks until 12 weeks old
- Or from 4 weeks in high risk situations, eg: kitten rescued from the street
- **Rabies vaccine at 12 weeks**

Puppies from 6 weeks old

- Boost at 9, 12 and (in some cases) 16 weeks old
- **Rabies at 12 weeks old**

Subsequent Booster Shots are required at one year of age and then periodically depending on the pet's situation and future travel plans.

When not to Vaccinate:

- If your pet is ill (your vet will do an examination before giving vaccine)
- During pregnancy. If you think your pet may be pregnant, please inform your veterinary surgeon.
- If your pet has an allergy or other reaction to vaccines. You will only know this from previous experience. Again, please inform your vet if your pet has reacted badly to previous vaccines or other medications.
- If your pet is less than 6 weeks old (occasional exceptions apply)
- If a future destination country requires absence of vaccine history. This is for selected diseases only - a vaccine course is still given but certain specific components removed as requested by the importing company.

NB: Vaccines are an essential part of your pet's preventive medicine program and are required by many countries. In only a few cases is it sensible to avoid routine vaccination.

Prohibited Breeds

Below is a list of breeds that the UAE (and many other countries) have banned from entry.

- Pit Bull Terrier or American Pit Bull Terrier
- Japanese Tosa (Tosa Inu; Tosa Fighting Dog)
- Argentinian Fighting Dog (Dogo Argentino; Argentinian Mastiff)
- Brazilian Fighting Dog (Fila Brasileiro; Brazilian Mastiff)
- Cross Breeds with extract of the above listed breeds
- Saluki and Greyhound
- Wolf Dog Hybrid (Any dog mixed with a wolf)

Transportation Boxes

What size transport box does your pet need?

Measure your pet properly to get the correct size for the carrier.

1. Length in cm = Nose to root of tail
2. Height in cm = Floor to top of head while standing
3. Width in cm = At the widest point

Use your pet's measurements to determine the required cage size. (See "[Pet Travel - Measure pet / size of cage](#)" document for more details)

Cage dimensions

Length > length of pet

Width > 2x width of pet

Height > standing height of dog (head up position)

Your pet should be able to stand up and turn around comfortably in the carrier.

Air Travel Containers can be wood or plastic but must conform to the IATA specifications. Some airlines insist on specific cage types and refuse others. Door catch design is important. Standard per carriers may require reinforcement of door catches.

Water bowl – This should be fitted to the inside of the door . A small hose from cage exterior should extend to the bowl to allow water supply without

opening the cage. Water is not required in the cage during flight (and would probably spill anyway) but ability to supply water without opening the cage is required in the event of delays. A funnel attached to the exterior makes this easier and should also be supplied.

Bedding

Absorbent and comfortable bedding should be supplied. Cage space requirements must allow for bedding – don't calculate the cage size and then occupy half the volume with a thick mattress! BVC recommends VetBed or a similar material. Ideally this has been used by your pet at home - familiar bedding is comforting..

Endangered Species

This does not apply to dogs and cats. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is an organization whose aim is to ensure that the international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not endanger their survival. If your pet is a CITES species (if you're unsure, please check www.cites.org) there are additional requirements for relocation)

Please note that CITES listed species may not be transported into the UAE unless there is;

- Appropriate CITES documentation
- Prior permission from the departure country's authorities
- Prior permission from UAE authorities

Pet owners sometimes do not realize that parrots such as African Grays, Macaws and others, reptiles, many primates and large number of other species may be restricted by CITES rules.

Please advise us in advance if you have a CITES pet that you want to transport.

Documentary Requirements For Pet Travel to the UAE

An Import Permit is required for animal entry to the UAE

NOTE: THE MINISTRY IS CLOSED FRIDAY & SATURDAY - THE WEEKEND IN THE UAE

FOR ROUTINE TRAVEL WE REQUIRE ALL THE DOCUMENTATION LISTED BELOW TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

British Veterinary Centre
30th (Khaleej Al Arabi) Street
Khalidya, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Tel + 971 (0)2 6650085, Fax +971 (0)84 280304
E-mail: info@britvet.ae web www.britvet.com

Failure to supply correct documentation on time can result in delays. We will do our best to avoid this but it really helps to have papers properly completed and on time. Short notice imports may be possible but will incur additional fees

DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORT TO UAE

- *Copies sent to us for import arrangement*
- *Originals must accompany animal on arrival*
- See [Import to UAE - Import Request](#) to start import procedure

PET DETAILS

1) Vaccine Record / Pet Details

- a) CLEAR copy
- b) Rabies vaccine data with
 - i) Batch number,
 - ii) Date given
 - (1) Within the last year, or
 - (2) With documentation supporting extended validity

Note: If only one rabies vaccine has been given this should be done more than 30 days prior to arrival. As first vaccines are given at three months of age, this means that puppies and kittens must be a minimum of four months when traveling to the UAE.

c) Details of the pet(s) specifying

- i) Species
- ii) Breed
- iii) Date of birth (estimate a date if not known, but please put a date and not an age).
- iv) Gender
- v) Colour / Markings
- vi) Weight

2) Microchip

- a) Number
- b) Date implanted

3) Veterinarian Health Certificate issued by the exporting country within 10 days of travel.

4) UAE Import Certificate

British Veterinary Centre
30th (Khaleej Al Arabi) Street
Khalidya, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Tel + 971 (0)2 6650085, Fax +971 (0)84 280304
E-mail: info@britvet.ae web www.britvet.com

5) Rabies Rules – procedures depend on where your pet is traveling from.

- a) **Group 1 countries:** These include All African countries, All South American countries, Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mexico, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Yemen

Group 1 countries require rabies test certification

[back](#)

- i) Original Certificate for Rabies Serum Neutralization test from accredited laboratory is required if the pet is being imported from a Group (1) country.
- ii) The Serum Antibody Titers must not be less than 0.5 IU.
- b) **Group 2 countries include:** Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, U.S.A, United Kingdom, Vatican City.

Group 2 countries do not require rabies test certification.

- c) If you are importing from a country not listed above, please have a government vet from your country explain your local rabies status. Some countries are rabies-free but not yet on list 2, in which case a statement from an official government authority may be accepted by the UAE to enable shipment.

[back](#)

PET OWNER DETAILS

- 1) Clear copy of passport
- 2) Letter of Authorisation from owner (see last page of this document) if BVC handling entry procedures / airport clearance.



BVC Pet Transport - UAE Import Permit

The United Arab Emirates has recently adopted an Internet based system for animal import permits. It is now possible to apply online for your pet's import permit at <http://uae.gov.ae/mafeservices/defaulten.aspx>

Advantages: This should be a cheaper and easier mechanism to acquire import permits. It should work well for people already in the country with access to banks that sell e-cards and who wish to clear pets themselves on arrival.

Issues to consider:

- 1) Payment for animal entry is only allowed by e-card, an electronic payment system. E-cards can be purchased at UAE banks but this is not helpful if you are entering the country with your pet for the first time. **NOTE: There is no official location at Dubai or Abu Dhabi airports where an e-card can be purchased on arrival**
- 2) Paperwork is reviewed by officials only upon arrival – discrepancies found at this stage can result in animals entering quarantine so those completing the online application must do so accurately and take responsibility to ensure that correct documents supporting the pet's entry eligibility are presented on arrival.
- 3) Many arrivals take place at anti-social hours – clients may prefer to hand the import procedure to an agent experienced in this work and have their pet delivered directly to home. Agents also screen documents BEFORE arrival so discrepancies are identified and corrected in advance of flight.

BVC pet transport is pleased to help with pet imports to any level our clients desire:

Options we offer include:

1. Full import service. In this case we take care of the whole import process and will screen documents, obtain the permit, obtain the e-card, clear the pet on arrival and deliver to home if desired. The import permit acquisition is included in this service.
2. Provide only the permit for clients who clear pets on arrival themselves but cannot get an e-card or prefer not to use the online system. We are happy to obtain the permit and courier this together with an e-card to you in advance of your flight.

Please review pet transport information documents online at: <http://www.britvet.com/pettravel.htm>

Pet Travel - General Advanced Preparation
Pet Travel - Measure pet / size of cage
Import to UAE - General Information
Import to UAE - Import Request
Import to UAE - Flight Delivery Details
Import to UAE - Bring my dog?

The above files are pdf downloads

British Veterinary Centre
30th (Khaleej Al Arabi) Street
Khalidya, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Tel + 971 (0)2 6650085, Fax +971 (0)84 280304
E-mail: info@britvet.ae web www.britvet.com