

Import of Pets into The RSA

Please note that this is a **personal** application and that the Embassy does not intervene in any way: it does not legalize documentation, it does not seal any forms, it does not make translations, does not send faxes and it does not forward documents to South Africa by diplomatic bag

Six or seven weeks prior to the animal's arrival in South Africa, the owner must FAX the form Application to Import

Animals or Animal Products into the RSA (Not Subject to Quarantine) . Do not forget to write a fax number to which the Veterinary Import Permit can be sent. Applicants may fax a copy of the official receipt, together with the application form obtainable at http://www.nda.agric.za/vetweb/Import/I_Application_forms.htm, to the Department of Animal Health, fax number is (+27 12 329 8292). Such an application will be accepted and processed by:

**National Department of Agriculture
Directorate of Veterinary Services: Import / Export Control
Private Bag X 138
0001 Pretoria
Tel.: 0027+12+319-7514/7632/7406/7414/7633
Fax: 0027+12+329-8292**

This is to reserve a place at the Quarantine Station. If the animal's place of origin is the Netherlands, most likely the animal does not have to be in quarantine, but should any of the tests as explained below return positive (ie. the animal is sick) the Government requires that a space be reserved for the animal to remain there for sixty days. If the animal does not have a reserved space, it will be sent back to its place of origin.

1. The veterinarian must perform some tests on the animal using a sample of its blood. You should get in touch with the veterinarian one month prior to the proposed date of travel and ask him/her how you can make the blood available to him/her, and what quantity of blood is necessary for the tests.
2. Ten days before the trip the veterinarian must effect a veterinary-medical examination on the animal and, in the case of dogs, verify that it has been vaccinated against rabies (take the Rabies Vaccination Certificate to him/her). The veterinarian will issue a Health Certificate that will be transcribed onto the forms required by the RSA: form IMP.DOG.GEN.05/00 for dogs or form IMP.CAT.GEN.05/00 for cats.
3. Download at: http://www.imcosa.co.za/downloads/pet_cat.pdf or http://www.imcosa.co.za/downloads/pet_dog.pdf Take the relevant form to the veterinarian.

NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION TO EMBARK ANIMAL:

International Export Certificate	Form. IMP.DOG.GEN.05/00 or IMP.CAT.GEN.05/00
Airway bill (the animal's "air ticket")	Veterinary Import Permit

An amount of R100,- must be deposited into the bank account of the Department of Agriculture for each animal you wish to import. This may be done in one of the following ways.

a. If you have a South African Bank account a check for R100,- can be made out to the Director General of Agriculture and sent with the application to the above address; or

b. R100,- can be deposited into the Department of Agriculture's bank account by means of a credit transfer from any commercial bank in the USA. The bank particulars are:

**S A Reserve Bank - Account Number : 8033-212-9
Branch Code : 910145**

Any transfer fees payable to the bank must be paid in addition to the R100,- fee.

A copy of the deposit slip (stamped by the bank) should then be sent with the application form to the above address.

4. The Veterinary Import permit and Veterinary Health Certificate will be sent to you directly from South Africa.
5. If the Veterinary Health Certificate **does not comply with the regulations** the animal/animals will be returned to their point of departure or **will be** placed in quarantine for a period of 60 days, if accommodation is available.

Remember: Import permits are valid for a limited period only.

6. The following documents are required:
 - The **original** veterinary import permit issued by the Directorate of Animal Health in South Africa.
 - The original "**Veterinary Health certificate in respect of dogs or cats for export to the Republic of South Africa**". This document should be completed in English and signed, within 10 days of departure, by a Government authorized vet.
 - A valid rabies certificate obtained at least 30 days prior to your departure. This certificate should not have been obtained more than 12 months or less than 30 days prior to exporting. The vaccine used must be a strain of anti-rabies conforming to a potency standard recognized by the World Health Organization.

7. Please note that it is a condition of the import permit that dogs/cats imported into South Africa **should be** booked as "**manifested cargo**" and **NOT** as "**excess baggage**".
8. The following helpful information was received from the **South African Airways** regarding the transportation of pets:
 - Livestock enters South Africa as manifested cargo in the temperature-controlled hold of the aircraft. Cabin stowage is not permitted. Dogs and cats must be older than 8 weeks.
 - As available space could be a problem you are advised to book well in advance when transporting pets.
 - Contact the Airline you are using to find out what their specific requirements are.
9. The **Director of Animal Health Sub-directorate Import-Export Control in Pretoria** would be able to assist you should there be any further information required.

Please follow this link for more info. on the importation of animals and/or animal products into South Africa www.nda.agric.za or you can enquire at the Sub-directorate Import and Export Control in Pretoria at tel: (012) 319 7514, fax; (012) 329 8292 or 319 7492.

You can also write to:

Directorate Veterinary Services
Sub-directorate Import and Export Control
Private Bag X138
Pretoria 0001