



# The British Veterinary Centre

## 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 Climate change & Environment.

### The following documents are required for import permit and entry:

1. **Vaccination Card/Certificate** for each pet dog or cat.
2. **Owner's passport copy. Microchip number** - the number should be clearly marked on the vaccine book or on a microchip certificate).
3. **Completed Annex** specifically for the UAE

(Fax or e-mail will do for permit application - originals are required on entry)

### PLUS New Rabies Rules

New regulations exist for Rabies control

- Some pets will need rabies tests in advance of entry 12 weeks before entering the UAE

**- All pets entering the UAE must travel as manifest cargo.**

### Our services include:

1. Import Permit application & delivery to local Ministry office
2. Import Permit collection
3. Customs clearing & collection from airport cargo section  
(All pet imports should be as **manifest cargo** - accompanied baggage is prohibited)
4. Delivery to residence if required
5. Boarding arrangement if required  
(Subject to availability - holiday times are best booked early)
6. Coordination with your agent in departure location.

**Please note:** The UAE authorities will not issue import papers more than one month in advance.



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## NOTES

### 1. Microchips

- a) Are tiny identification devices that your vet can easily implant under your pet's 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.

### 2. Owners Passport Copy

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

### 3. Vaccine records

- 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) 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. Your pet can enter the UAE once it's 4 calendar months old.

### 4. Delivery Location Map

- a) Supply a map if you would like BVC to deliver your pet to a location in the UAE  
**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.



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## 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 calendar months old and properly vaccinated against Rabies.**

The UAE does not permit the import of pets who 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.

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

**Cats:** are commonly vaccinated against

1. Cat flu (two types - calicivirus and herpesvirus (rhinotracheitis) **(Mandatory for Import)**,
2. Panleucopenia (enteritis) **(Mandatory for Import)**,
3. Leukemia (if at risk) and
4. Rabies **(Mandatory for Import)**

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

1. Distemper **(Mandatory for Import)**,
2. Hepatitis **(Mandatory for Import)**,
3. Parvovirus **(Mandatory for Import)**,
4. Leptospirosis **(Mandatory for Import)**,
5. Parainfluenza virus **(Mandatory for Import)** and
6. Rabies. **(Mandatory for Import)**



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7. 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 kennelling during holidays.

## When to Vaccinate:

*BVC policy - other vets may differ on this standard routine*

### Primary Vaccination Course

#### Kittens from 6 weeks old

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

#### Puppies from 6 weeks old

1. Boost at 9, 12 and (in some cases) 16 weeks old
2. **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:

1. If your pet is ill (your vet will do an examination before giving vaccine)
2. During pregnancy. If you think your pet may be pregnant, please inform your veterinary surgeon.
3. 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.
4. If your pet is less than 6 weeks old (occasional exceptions apply)
5. 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.



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## Prohibited Breeds

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

1. Pit Bull Terrier (American or any other hybrid)
2. Rottweilers (Or any other hybrid)
3. Japanese Tosa (Tosa Inu; Tosa Fighting Dog)
4. Argentinian Fighting Dog (Dogo Argentino; Argentinian Mastiff)
5. Brazilian Fighting Dog (Fila Brasileiro; Brazilian Mastiff)
6. Wolf Dog Hybrid (Any dog mixed with a wolf)
7. Staffordshire terrier (American or any other hybrid)
8. Boxers
9. Mastiff (or any Mastiff Hybrid)
10. Doberman
11. Canano Presa
12. Cross Breeds with extract of the above listed breeds

## 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. We recommend filling the bowl  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way and freeze the water before traveling so it does not spill.



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## 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](http://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;

1. Appropriate CITES documentation
2. Prior permission from the departure country's authorities
3. Prior permission from UAE authorities

Pet owners sometimes do not realize that parrots such as African Greys, 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, AND NATIONAL HOLIDAYS SUCH AS EID, ISLAMIC NEW YEAR AND SO ON.

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

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

British Veterinary Centre  
30th (Khaleej Al Arabi) Street  
Khalidya, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
Tel + 971 (0)2 6650085 | Fax +971 (0)2 6655118  
E-mail: [import@britvet.ae](mailto:import@britvet.ae) | Web [www.britvet.com](http://www.britvet.com)



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## 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 calendar months before we can apply for an import permit

### 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

#### a) Rabies Rules

- i) Rabies vaccination is required for all cats and dogs
- ii) Requirement for additional laboratory test procedure (RNATT) depends on where your pet is traveling from:

- (1) **Departure countries exempted:** A rabies immunity laboratory test certificate is not required if your pet is traveling from one of the following countries:

Australia, Austria, Andorra, Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Bahrain, Cyprus, Denmark, Fiji, French Polynesia, Falkland Islands, Germany, Kazakhstan, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Jamaica, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Malta, Mauritius, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Portugal, Qatar, Saint Kitts & Nevis, San Marino, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Vanuatu.

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Khalidya, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Tel + 971 (0)2 6650085 | Fax +971 (0)2 6655118  
E-mail: [import@britvet.ae](mailto:import@britvet.ae) | Web [www.britvet.com](http://www.britvet.com)



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(2) **Departure Countries not exempted (i.e. those not mentioned in the above group):** Rabies immunity laboratory test certificate (RNATT) is required and must clearly show:

- (a) Pet Details including Microchip id
- (b) Adequate antibody level
- (c) Date of sample
- (d) Certificate issued from governmental or internationally accredited laboratory.

**NOTE: The rabies test certificate required from non-listed countries is in addition to the rabies vaccine,** which is required from all departure countries. Tests are performed after vaccines to show that vaccines have worked.

## 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.

## 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.
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 on our client's instruction.



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## 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 a client who clears the pets on arrival themselves but cannot get an e-card. 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/travel>

- [Pet Travel - General Advanced Preparation](#)
- [Pet Travel - Measure pet / size of cage](#)
- [Import to UAE - General Information](#)
- [Import to UAE - Bring my dog?](#)
- [Import to UAE - Import Request Form \(Editable\)](#)

Fully complete the Import Request Form and email it to [import@britvet.ae](mailto:import@britvet.ae)

Completed forms can also be faxed to +971 (2) 665 5118