

## **GUIDELINES TO BRING CATS TO MAURITIUS**

### Note to passengers:

Anyone who wishes to bring to Mauritius a pet (cat) should apply and obtain an Import Permit from the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, Livestock and Veterinary Division 45 days prior to departure from exporting country.

**No animal should be embarked for Mauritius without an import permit issued by the Livestock and Veterinary Division, Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security and an International Veterinary Certificate from exporting country.**

Contact us on [petimport@govmu.org](mailto:petimport@govmu.org) for more details

### **How to apply for an Import Permit for cats:**

1. An application form (separate application form for each animal) should duly filled and signed by importer.

### **2. The following documents should be submitted:**

(a). A motivation letter specifying the purpose of the visit to Mauritius. Also state whether you are a Mauritian resident returning home permanently or on holidays and how long you have stayed abroad, a breeder or otherwise. If you are an expatriate, send copy of your resident permit / occupation permit, and specify the length of your stay in Mauritius. All letters should be addressed to the Principal Veterinary Officer.

(b). Copy of vaccination book/card of the pet (from front cover up to latest vaccines).

(c). Sterilisation certificate (signed and stamped by a Veterinarian). Except for animals intended for breeding. Animal for breeding should have a pedigree certificate (signed and stamped by a Veterinarian) stating that the animal is pure breed with the name of sire and dam of the animal.

(d). A copy of Passport/ Identity Card of the owner.

(e). In case importer is hiring a representative, an authorization letter must be submitted along with the application clearly stating duties delegated to the person(s).

### **(f) Tests to be performed:**

**Rabies neutralizing antibody titre (RNAT)**

Wait 4 weeks between the rabies vaccination and blood sample collection for the RNAT test.

The RNAT test must meet the following requirements:

1. An approved veterinarian must scan the cat's microchip and collect the blood sample for the RNAT test in an approved country.
2. The testing laboratory must use either a fluorescent antibody virus neutralisation (FAVN) test or a rapid fluorescent focus inhibition test (RFFIT).
3. The laboratory report must be in English and completed on the testing laboratory's letterhead.

It must include:

- (a) the cat's microchip number
  - (b) the blood sampling date and location
  - (c) the signature of the person issuing the laboratory report
  - (d) the test type and test result
  - (e) the date of result.
  - (f) A result of 0.5 IU/ml or more is acceptable. A result of less than 0.5 IU/ml is not acceptable and in this circumstance you must re-vaccinate and repeat the testing process.
  - (g) A waiting period of at least 3 months must be observed after rabies test is done (sampling date is taken into consideration).
4. The laboratory that performed the test should also send us a copy of the test results so as to confirm authenticity of same.
  5. The test must be done in a laboratory approved by the government veterinary authorities of the exporting OR an OIE Reference laboratory for Rabies.

Please see below an extract of the new import permit conditions which need to be respected:

*"1. The cat showed no clinical signs of Rabies and other infectious diseases the day prior to shipment or on the day of shipment.*

**AND EITHER**

*a) The cat was vaccinated or revaccinated in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer, with a vaccine that was produced in accordance with the Terrestrial Manual and;*

*b) The cat was subjected not less than 3 months and not more than 12 months prior to shipment to an antibody titration test as prescribed in the Terrestrial Manual with a positive result of at least 0.5 IU/ml in a laboratory approved by the government veterinary authorities of the exporting country.*

*OR*

*was kept in an approved quarantine station for six months prior to shipment under supervision of Veterinary Authority of your exporting country. "*

**Vaccination:**

The cat must have been vaccinated against feline enteritis, feline rhinotracheitis and feline calicivirus. The vaccination should be up to date but not to be done less than fourteen (14) days and not more than twelve (12) months prior to export. The vaccination certificate/s, or copies endorsed by an Official Veterinarian, for these vaccinations must be attached to the Veterinary Certificate.

**Note: All test reports must be endorsed by the Competent Authority of exporting country.**

The applicant will be issued an Import Permit subject to:-

- (1) Production of proof that all the conditions imposed on the specimen copy of the Import Permit have been complied with (originals or certified true copy of originals to be submitted at arrival).
- (2) Availability of kennel/cattery at the Quarantine Station.
- (3) Payment of import fee of Rs 500 per animal and veterinary clearance fee of Rs 500, as applicable at time of issue.
- (4) All pets arriving to Mauritius must come as manifest **CARGO ONLY** (NOT in cabin and NOT in luggage hold as excess luggage), coordinates of local broker, for clearance purposes must be provided.

## **Prior to arrival**

At least four days before arrival of the cat, you should inform the time of arrival and flight number to this office by email.

On the date of arrival, your broker should be present at the Airport, for customs formalities. In case of absence of representative (broker), the animal risks to be put back on the plane at owner's cost.

## **Post arrival**

- Rent of kennel/cattery - Rs15/- per day per animal.
- **Visiting hours:** -
  - Monday to Saturday: From 09.00 a.m to 11.00 a.m and 01.00 p.m to 02.30 p.m
  - Sundays & Public Holidays: From 09.00 a.m to 12.00 a.m
- **Feeding & other necessity:** -
  - Food and litter for the cat must be provided by individual owner.
- When the animal comes to Mauritius, it must be accompanied by all the original documents (endorsed by the competent authority) including an INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE issued by the competent authority of the exporting country.
- The animal will **undergo a quarantine of 5 days or one month only (depending on the rabies status in country of export at the time of issue of import permit)** at the Quarantine Facility at Reduit.

All pets must be collected by owner or an authorised person (allowed in written) at the end of the quarantine period.

*Conditions are subject to change without any prior notice.*