

**FAQS: NEW IMPORT AND QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE IMPORT OF DOGS AND CATS**

Q1 Why does Singapore quarantine incoming dogs and cats?

A1 The requirement to quarantine imported dogs and cats is part of our risk management approach for rabies. Rabies is a fatal disease in both animals and humans. Hence, AVA treats the prevention of rabies incursion into Singapore very seriously. This risk management approach has kept Singapore free from rabies since 1953.

Q2 If I import my dog/cat, does it need to be quarantined and for how long?

A2 Post-arrival quarantine will apply depending on where the dog/cat comes from and its vaccination status. AVA has placed countries into different categories, depending on their rabies status. The categories are as follows:

Category A: Countries traditionally free from rabies, namely Australia, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom. There is no quarantine on arrival in Singapore. For details of the veterinary conditions for import of animals from Category A, go to: (insert hyperlink to different vet conditions)

Category B: Countries with negligible risk of rabies, namely Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the United States (Guam and Hawaii only). There is no quarantine on arrival in Singapore. For details of the veterinary conditions for import of animals from Category B, go to: (insert hyperlink to different vet conditions)

Category C: Countries with controlled risk, or with low incidence of rabies, namely Belgium, Canada, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and USA (except Guam and Hawaii). Category C has been split into 3 sections depending on the rabies vaccination status of the animal. For details of the different classifications, go to: (insert hyperlink to different vet conditions).

Category C1: 10 days of quarantine on arrival in Singapore

Category C2: 30 days of quarantine on arrival in Singapore

Category C3: 30 days of quarantine on arrival in Singapore

Category D: All other countries not listed above with undetermined risk of rabies. Animals will be quarantined for 30 days on arrival in Singapore. For details of the veterinary conditions for import of animals from Category D, go to: (insert hyperlink to different vet conditions)

Please note that categorisation of countries is subject to change, if the risk of incursion of rabies changes with respect to that country. Please check the website for updates on the categorisation of countries.

Q3 How does Singapore decide which Category a country would be in?

A3 A questionnaire on the rabies situation of a country was sent to the veterinary authorities of various countries and the returns were assessed by AVA. Countries were placed into categories depending on the risk of rabies. The information requested include the prevalence and incidence of rabies in domestic animals and humans in the country in the past 5 years, the veterinary infrastructure of the country and the animal health regulations, especially with regard to rabies. Countries may move between categories if there are significant changes in the rabies status.

Residency requirement

Q4 Can I move my dog/cat out of my country in the 6 months prior to export to Singapore?

A4 Yes. If you move your pet to another country within the same category or a country of lower risk category, in the 6 months prior to export, (e.g. if you move your pet which is in a Category B country to another country in Category A or B) your pet can still qualify for import under the requirements for Category B.

If you move your pet to another country in a higher risk category, your pet will be considered to be in this higher risk category. E.g. if you move your pet which is in a Category B country to a country in Category C, your pet will no longer qualify for import under the requirements for Category B. Your pet must now be imported under the requirements for Category C.

Q5 What if my dog/cat cannot fulfil the residency period in countries within the same category prior to export to Singapore?

A5 Your pet must have resided for at least six months in a country or countries within the same category or a lower risk category before it can qualify for import under that country's category. Should your pet not fulfil the residency period for that category, it will be imported into Singapore based on the import conditions for the country it has resided in with the highest risk of rabies during the six months prior to export. For example, if the animal has only had a 4-month continuous residency in the exporting country of category B and prior to that, spent 2 months in a country of category D, it will be imported based on the import requirements of animals from category D

Pre-export rabies vaccination and testing

Q6 What is meant by valid rabies vaccination?

A6 For an animal to be considered to have valid rabies vaccination on arrival in Singapore, the expiry date of the animal's rabies vaccination (the date of next vaccination in the vaccination programme) must be after the date of arrival in Singapore. This would depend on the specification of the vaccine used. For example, if an animal is vaccinated with a vaccine that has a 2-year validity and comes to Singapore 15 months after being vaccinated, the vaccination is still considered valid on arrival. However, if the animal is vaccinated with a vaccine with a 1-year validity and arrives in Singapore 15 months after being vaccinated, the vaccination is no longer considered valid.

Q7 What if my dog/cat cannot fulfil pre export rabies vaccination requirements prior to export to Singapore?

A7 The animal will be vaccinated upon arrival in Singapore and serology will be done 1 month after vaccination. The animal will be quarantined in Singapore for the post-vaccination period, which it would have had to fulfil prior to export, in accordance with the country's category. For e.g., the animal will be quarantined for 3 months post-vaccination if it is being exported under Category C3. The quarantine period will be 6 months if the animal is from a Category D country. Please note that you would be charged the quarantine fees. [insert hyperlink to the fees]

Q8 What if I cannot obtain the necessary serology requirements for my dog/cat?

A8 Serology will be conducted upon arrival. The animal will be quarantined pending test results. In addition, if the animal comes from a country that requires post arrival quarantine, the quarantine period will be in accordance with that required under the exporting country's category, provided the test result is obtained by AVA prior to the end of the quarantine period. Otherwise, the animal must remain in quarantine until the test result is received. Please note that you would be charged the quarantine fees (insert hyperlink to the fees), cost of the serological test, and the associated fees for a private veterinarian to collect the blood sample.

Q9 How would I know if my dog/cat meets the serological test (rabies antibodies test) for rabies?

A9 Rabies antibody titres must be at least 0.5IU/ml for an animal to enter Singapore. If the value obtained is lower than this, it means the animal is not adequately protected against rabies and will not be allowed into Singapore.

Others

Q10 If I were to export a puppy/kitten that is less than 4 months old to Singapore, what are the requirements for importation into Singapore with regard to rabies?

A10 According to rabies vaccine manufacturer's recommendations, animals should be at least 12 weeks old when they are given their first rabies vaccination. Blood can only be taken for serology a minimum of 30 days after a vaccination, which would make the animal at least 16 weeks old. Additionally, it takes at least a few weeks to get the results for serology once the sample has been submitted. Depending on the category of the country of export, there may also be further post-vaccination residency requirements. Hence animals younger than 4 months from countries in categories B, C and D would not be able to fulfil AVA's import requirements.