



## Guide to Apply for Import of Pet Animals and Birds

### You Need to Obtain a Special Permit

Animals and birds (mammals, birds and reptiles) must not be brought into Hong Kong (either to import or for transshipment/transit) unless a Special Permit to do so is obtained IN ADVANCE from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. Application may be made on a prescribed form (Form No.: AF240). Permits, if issued, will normally be valid for 6 months and is good for one consignment only.

### Types of Special Permits for Dogs and Cats

Dogs and cats imported into Hong Kong must meet the import requirements stipulated in the permit. The type of permit and the relevant permit conditions will be dependent on the country/place of origin. AFCD classifies countries/places of different risk of rabies into four groups in order to safeguard public health:

(A). **Group I countries/places:** Dogs and cats imported direct from **U.K., Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii, Japan and Bailiwick of Jersey** are normally exempted from quarantine subject to full compliance with the permit conditions.

(B). **Group II countries/places:** Dogs and cats imported from the following 39 countries/places may be exempted from quarantine subject to full compliance with the permit conditions.

|             |                   |               |                   |                |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Austria     | Bahamas           | Bahrain       | Belgium           | Bermuda        |
| Brunei      | Canada            | Cayman Island | Cyprus            | Czech Republic |
| Denmark     | Finland           | France        | Germany           | Gibraltar      |
| Guam        | Iceland           | Italy         | Jamaica           | Luxembourg     |
| Maldives    | Malta             | Mauritius     | Norway            | New Caledonia  |
| Netherlands | Papua New Guinea  | Portugal      | Republic of Korea | Seychelles     |
| Singapore   | Solomon Islands   | Spain         | Sweden            | Switzerland    |
| Taiwan      | USA (Continental) | Vanuatu       | Virgin Islands    | --             |

There is a possibility that the rabies-free status or other factors may change in these countries/places. The above list is subject to ongoing review.

(C). **Group IIIA countries/places:** Dogs and cats imported from the following countries/places are subject to a minimum of 30 days quarantine period.

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Macao SAR |  |
|-----------|--|

(D). **Group IIIB countries/places:** Dogs and cats imported from countries/places other than those listed above are subject to a minimum of 4- month quarantine period.

*Note: If deemed necessary (for instance, animals of doubtful history; animals showing suspicious clinical signs during quarantine), the quarantine period for dogs and cats from all countries/places (Group I, II, IIIA and IIIB) may be extended to a minimum of 6 months.*

### Types of Special Permits for Animals and Birds other than Dogs and Cats

Specific terms and conditions are imposed on different species. Please contact 1823 or visit our website at <http://www.afcd.gov.hk> for details.

### Payment of Permit Fees

Fees are required for the issue of permits and must be paid at the time of the application. Fees are charged in accordance with the Fee Schedules. Separate permits are required for different categories consigned.

(A). **In person** Cash or crossed local cheque payable to “The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region” is to be paid at the time when an application is submitted.

(B). **By post**

- Crossed local cheque is acceptable for local application. Cash should not be sent by post.
- For overseas application, payment shall be by bank draft in HONG KONG CURRENCY payable to “The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region” drawn from a bank in Hong Kong. To expedite an urgent application, an overseas applicant may nominate a friend or the transportation agent in Hong Kong to apply for permits on his/her behalf.

(C). **Online**

Applicant can also apply for the Special Permit through the Trade Single Window. More information can be viewed at [www.tradesinglewindow.hk](http://www.tradesinglewindow.hk).

### General Terms and Conditions

- All pets must be transported by the fastest and most direct route to Hong Kong.
- All pets must be carried and caged in such a way as to ensure humane management at all times.

## **Procedures to Collect Your Pets**

### ***(A). Arrival by air as manifested cargo (covered by an Airway Bill)***

- Notify actual arrival details to AFCD Import & Export Officers at the airport at least 24 hours prior to the arrival of the pets at the tel no.: (852) 2182 1001, or by fax: (852) 2769 8600.
- Approach the cargo-handling agents of the airline concerned for the clearance of your consignment. There are three cargo handling agents in the Hong Kong International Airport, namely, the Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Ltd. (HACTL), the Asia Airfreight Terminal Co. Ltd. (AAT) and Cathay Pacific Services Ltd (CPSL). You can find out from the airline the relevant agent that is handling your consignment.
- Obtain from the cargo handling agent (HACTL or AAT or CPSL) the following documents:  
1. Airway Bill      2. Shipment Release Form      3. Airline Certification
- Present the above documents to the AFCD Import Control Officers at the relevant office for documentation clearance and inspection.

| AFCD Cargo Office at HACTL  |
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| Rm C107, 1/F, Main Terminal,<br>9 Chun Wan Road, Super Terminal 1,<br>HK International Airport, Lantau, Hong Kong<br>Tel.: (852) 2116 0175, (852) 2769 6576<br>Fax: (852) 2116 0176 |

| AFCD Cargo Office at AAT   |
|--|
| Room 113, 1/F, Terminal 2, Asia<br>Airfreight Terminal, 10 Chun Ping Road,<br>Hong Kong International Airport, Lantau,<br>Hong Kong<br>Tel.: (852) 2116 0185<br>Fax: (852) 2116 0187 |

| AFCD Cargo Office at CPSL  |
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| Room B320, 3/F, Core SE, Cathay Pacific<br>Cargo Terminal,<br>3 Chun Wan Road,<br>Hong Kong International Airport, Lantau,<br>Hong Kong<br>Tel.: (852) 2795 2313<br>Fax: (852) 2795 2807 |

- Present the "Shipment Release Form" to the Supervisor of the relevant cargo handling agent (HACTL, AAT or CPSL) for retrieval of your animal consignment.
- Bring along with your pets to the relevant AFCD Offices for health check and other clearance procedures.
- If all import permit conditions are complied with and all documents are in order, your pets will be released to you. If not, the animals may be transferred to the Airport Animal Hostel or to the Animal Management Centres as appropriate.

***(B). Arrival by other routes:*** Please contact AFCD well in advance for special arrangement. The contact telephone number is indicated in the import permit.

## **Animal Management Centres**

All Animal Management Centres are under the supervision of AFCD Veterinary Officers but owners are required to nominate their own private veterinary surgeon to provide veterinary care and treatment at the owner's expense.

- Kowloon Animal Management Centre      Tel: (852) 2362 6988
- Hong Kong Animal Management Centre      Tel: (852) 2550 9211
- AFCD Airport Animal Hostel      Tel: (852) 2182 1001 (caters mainly for animal transshipment.)

## **Reminders**

- Live endangered species must also be covered by appropriate CITES Import/Possession Licences issued by this department separately. Fees are imposed on such licences.
- Transportation service will not be provided by this department. Owners must ensure that they or their agents will meet their pets on arrival and will provide suitable transport to quarantine kennels.
- Quarantine of dogs and cats will be assessed upon their arrival. Failure to comply fully with the permit terms and conditions may render the animals liable to 4-6 months quarantine, and, in some exceptional cases, even longer.
- Please ensure the relevant certification requirements are complied with in full.
- The process lead-time for the issue of Special Permit is normally 5 working days from the date the permit fee and the application form are received. The permit will then be dispatched by surface mail or airmail (for overseas application) to the address as indicated in the application form. Please note that request for dispatch by fax or email will not be entertained.
- Two copies of permit will be sent to the applicant. Please keep the original (white) copy for the retrieval of the pets on arrival. The carrying Airline/Shipping Company may require the shipper to produce the duplicate (yellow) copy before accepting the carriage of pets in the exporting country.
- Do not arrange for the actual transportation of your pets unless a Special Permit has been obtained from this department.

## **Re-entry of Pets**

Pets which have left Hong Kong are subject to the same importation and quarantine restrictions as outlined in this pamphlet on their return to Hong Kong. Special Permit to bring back pets which have left Hong Kong needs to be obtained from this department well in advance.

## **Enquiry**

Permit and Certification Section, Import and Export Division, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, 5th Floor, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, 303 Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Telephone: (852) 2150 7063

Fax: (852) 2375 3563

Website: <http://www.afcd.gov.hk>

24 hours Interactive Telephone Enquiry: (852) 2708 8885