



Guide to Importing Pet Animals and Birds

You Need to Obtain a Permit

Animals (mammals and reptiles) and birds must not be brought into Hong Kong (either for import or for transshipment/transit) unless a Special Permit/Import Permit to do so is obtained IN ADVANCE from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). Application may be made on a prescribed form (Form No.: AF240 or AF301 (for importation of mammals from the Mainland)). The forms can be downloaded from our website or requested for free at our office. Application for a permit can also be made through the Trade Single Window (www.tradesinglewindow.hk). Permits, if issued, will normally be valid for 6 months and for one consignment only.

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 three groups in order to safeguard public health:

(A). **Group I countries/places:** Dogs and cats imported directly from the 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 III countries/places:** Dogs and cats imported from countries/places other than those listed above are subject to a minimum 4- month quarantine at the Animal Management Centre of AFCD at the expense of the importer.

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 and III) may be extended.

Permits for Animals and Birds other than Dogs and Cats

Specific terms and conditions are imposed on species other than dogs and cats. 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 Special Permit and must be paid at the time of the application. Fees are charged in accordance with the Fee Schedule which is available on our website. Separate permits are required for different categories and consignments of animals or birds. No permit fee is required for animals imported from Mainland China.

(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 and pay for the Special Permit through the Trade Single Window online. More information can be viewed at 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 Air Waybill)

- Notify AFCD Import & Export Officers at the airport about the actual arrival details at least 2 working days prior to the arrival of the pets by phone : (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. Air Waybill
 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
Rm C107, 1/F, Main Terminal, 9 Chun Wan Road, Super Terminal 1, HK International Airport, Lantau, Hong Kong Tel.: (852) 2116 0175, (852) 2769 6576 Fax: (852) 2116 0176

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

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

- Present the "Shipment Release Form" to the Supervisor of the relevant cargo handling agent (HACTL, AAT or CCT) 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 our Animal Management Centre as appropriate.

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

Reminders

- Live endangered species must also be covered by appropriate CITES Import/Possession Licences issued by AFCD separately. Fees are imposed on such licences.
- Transportation service will not be provided by AFCD. Owners must ensure that they or their agents will meet their pets on arrival and will provide suitable transport to transfer the pets to Animal Management Centre for quarantine if necessary.
- The requirement of quarantine of pets will be assessed upon their arrival. Failure to comply fully with the permit terms and conditions may render the animals liable to quarantine.
- Please ensure the relevant certification requirements are complied with in full.
- The process lead-time for the issue of Special Permit/Import 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 the permit will be sent to the applicant. Please keep the original (white) copy for the retrieval of your 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. For application via Trade Single Window, an e-permit will be issued via the system.
- Do not arrange for the actual transportation of your pets unless a Special Permit/Import Permit has been obtained from AFCD.

Re-entry of Pets

Pets which have left Hong Kong are subject to the same importation and quarantine restrictions as outlined in this guide on their return to Hong Kong and a Permit must be obtained in advance. If your dogs and cats are returning from a Group II country/place, please visit our website at https://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/quarantine/qua_ie/qua_ie_ipab/qua_ie_ipab_idc/qua_ie_ipab_idc_rew.html for further information.

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