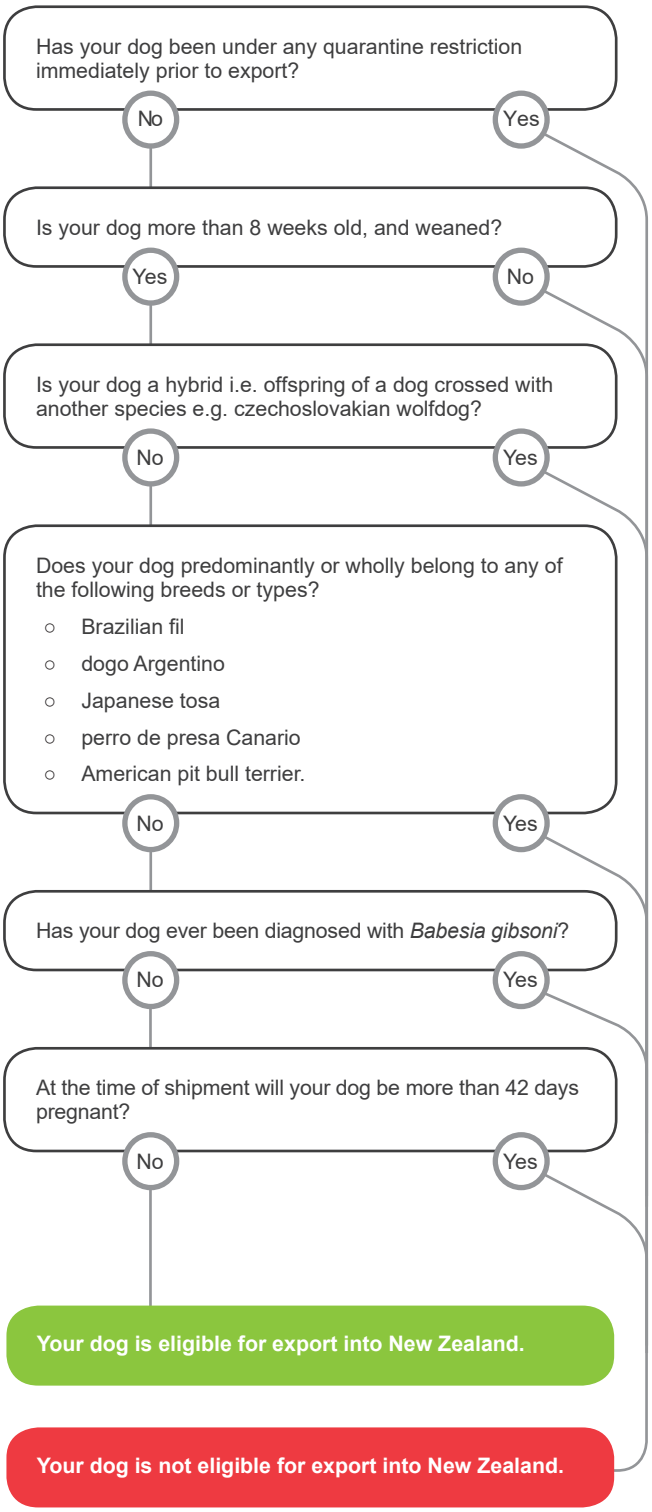
Bringing your Dog to New Zealand

Dogs from Category 1 Countries

Support document and checklist

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

Eligibility questions



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About

There are three different categories of country you can import cats and dogs from:

- Category 1: Australia (including Norfolk Island)
- Category 2: Rabies free
- Category 3: Rabies absent or well controlled

This supporting document is to help people bring their dog to New Zealand from a **Category 1** country. Check the category of the country your dog is coming from in the *Guidance Document: Cats and Dogs*

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is the competent authority in New Zealand. We set the rules for bringing in your dog.

The *Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs* provides the requirements (must do) for importing your dog, and the accompanying guidance document provides advice on how to meet the requirements.

We recommend you familiarise yourself with the process and the requirements.

Overview

New Zealand's requirements to import dogs are amongst the strictest in the world, reflecting the absence of many pests and diseases. If your dog doesn't meet all requirements your dog might be (at your cost):

- held in quarantine
- required to complete additional testing or treatments
- reshipped back to the country of origin
- put down/euthanised (in the worst-case scenario)

If this is the first time you have arranged a dog to come to New Zealand, you may find it time-consuming and complicated. MPI recommends you use a pet transporter to help arrange tests, treatments, flights, shipping crates, etc. Be aware that some airlines only accept bookings made by a pet transporter. We recommend checking directly with airlines about booking requirements, and any other conditions that may be imposed.

You also need to consider your dog's welfare and whether your dog is fit enough to travel to New Zealand

How to use this document

This guide is to help people bringing their dog to New Zealand from a **Category 1** country. The document has been broken down into stages to help you navigate through the process. A checklist is included to help ensure you complete each step at the correct time.

Eligibility

To be **eligible** to be shipped to New Zealand your dog must:

- be a domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*).
- be more than 8 weeks and weaned on the date of travel to New Zealand.
- not have been under any quarantine restriction prior to shipment.

Your dog **cannot** come to New Zealand if it is:

- a hybrid (i.e. offspring of dogs crossed with another species e.g. wolf)
- more than 42 days pregnant on the date of travel to New Zealand.

The following dog breeds/types and their crosses are **not eligible** to come to New Zealand:

- Brazilian fil
- dogo Argentino
- Japanese tosa
- perro de presa Canario
- American pit bull terrier

Dogs diagnosed with *Babesia gibsoni* are not eligible to come to New Zealand, regardless of treatment.

Timeframe

You need to follow all steps carefully and do them at the correct time to avoid complications, such as having to repeat steps, rebook flights or have your dog not meet the requirements on arrival.

Documentation

You must provide proof that your dog meets all requirements (such as laboratory test results etc). Your dog's microchip number must be recorded on all documentation.

Medication

If your dog is on any medication, you will need to include a copy of the veterinarian's prescription with the export documentation.

If the medication is travelling with your dog, attach a *Declaration of Medicines* to the export documents.

Tests and treatments

There are two types of veterinarian involved in this process.

A **registered or licensed veterinarian** who can:

- administer tests and treatments and provide advice
- verify your dog's identity by scanning the microchip prior to each test, treatment or vaccination
- send samples to and receive results back from laboratories
- fill out *Model Certificate A*

An **official government veterinarian** who:

- is trained and authorised by the government
- completes, signs and stamps *Model Veterinary Certificate*
- signs and stamps all other export documentation

Check the export requirements for the country your dog is travelling from. Some countries have different rules about which veterinarian prepares your dog. Additionally, try to find an experienced veterinarian that has previously prepared dogs to move to New Zealand.

Travel Arrangements

Travel crate

Your dog will be transported in a crate in the air-conditioned cargo hold of the airplane that is temperature controlled and pressurised just like the cabin. The crate the dog travels in must comply with the *International Air Transport Association (IATA)* regulations.

Read the IATA requirements when choosing a crate that best meets your dog's needs.

The crate must:

- be clean, dry and free of pests
- only have inert bedding. Straw or hay bedding is not permitted.
- anything that travels with your dog will be destroyed on arrival in New Zealand (such as bedding, toys or clothing).

Contact the export country's competent authority to discuss how to get the official government seal on the crat

Notify Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)

You need to notify MPI at least 5 days before your dog arrives in New Zealand, using the *MPI Veterinary Inspection form.*

Email notifications to ozdogsandcats@mpi.govt.nz

If you have any questions and your pet is arriving in Auckland,
email: liveanimalsauckland@mpi.govt.nz
or phone: **+64 9 909 2706**

If you have any questions and your pet is arriving in Christchurch,
email: liveanimalschristchurch@mpi.govt.nz
or phone: **+64 3 943 1777**

Travelling with medicines

If your dog is taking any medication, you must send MPI a copy of the prescription before or when your pet arrives in New Zealand. If the veterinary medicine is travelling with your pet, you must complete a *Declaration of Medicines*. Attach the declaration and a copy of the prescription to the documents. Generally, MPI will give clearance for up to a 3-month supply.

On the day

On the date of travel, your dog must be in its crate and must travel with the following:

- import permit (issued by MPI and where applicable)
- the original *Model Veterinary Certificate A* signed, endorsed and dated
- the original *Model Veterinary Certificate B* signed, endorsed and dated
- original laboratory reports or copies endorsed by a veterinarian
- if the dog has medication, a copy of the prescription and declaration (if needed)
- any other documents as required by the airline.

Arrival

On arrival in New Zealand, your dog will be inspected by an Official eterinarian and allowed to enter New Zealand if all requirements have been met.

Inspection times are as follows:
Auckland 0700 to 1900 hours (weekdays only)
Christchurch 1300 to 1700 hours (weekdays only)
These hours are Monday to Friday except for public holidays and a period between and around Christmas and New Year.

If your dog is found to have fleas or ticks, your dog will be directed to a quarantine facility for further testing and treatment (at importer's expense). If your dog is found to have ticks or fleas after release into New Zealand or from quarantine, or is unwell, you should take it to a veterinarian. Tell the veterinarian that your dog has recently arrived in New Zealand from Australia.

You must register your dog with your local council in New Zealand.

Documentation

Model Veterinary Certificates A and B

Different countries have different rules for which veterinaria completes which certificate, so check the rules for the country you dog will be travelling from. Generally, once your veterinarian has completed the testing and treatments for your dog:

- your veterinarian prepares *Model Veterinary Certificates A and B*.
- the official government veterinarian signs, dates and endorse *Model Veterinary Certificates A and B*, and laboratory reports.

Declarations for Model Veterinary Certificates A and B

To get the *Model Veterinary Certificate A* and *Model Veterinary Certificate* , you must be ready to declare that your dog:

- will be more than 8 weeks of age at the date of shipment.
- will not be more than 42 days pregnant at the date of shipment.
- has not been under any quarantine restriction immediately prior to shipment.

For at least **21 days prior** to shipment, your dog:

- was not kept in a place where there were cats or dogs showing clinical signs of infectious respiratory disease.
- showed no clinical signs of infectious respiratory disease.

We recommend that you check with your pet transporter or airline which documents need to travel with your dog on the flight

Tests and Treatments

The checklist on page 9 is set out to help you and your veterinarian plan when to test and treat your dog for export.

You need to know what date your dog is scheduled to fly out of the country to book appointments with your veterinarian on the correct dates.

Your dog may require re-testing for any positive or inconclusive test results. This is likely to alter the timeline that your dog can arrive in. Contact **animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz** before re-testing.

Finding the right people to help you

Contact the competent authority in the country your dog is leaving from. This is the official government body in charge of the export of animals. The competent authority will help you locate:

- a veterinarian authorised to do the required tests and treatments to prepare your dog to come to New Zealand
- a veterinarian authorised to complete and sign *Model Veterinary Certificate A*
- approved testing laboratory(ies)
- an official government veterinarian authorised to endorse *Model Veterinary Certificate* and other export documentation.

Using a pet transporter makes preparing your dog easier.

Microchip

Your dog must be implanted with a microchip and the microchip scanned to verify the identity of your dog before any of the vaccinations, tests or treatments required for import into New Zealand.

Microchips that meet International Standards Organisation (ISO) specifications 1784 or Annex A of 11785 are generally used. If the microchip does not meet ISO standard specifications, you will need to check the microchip can be read in New Zealand.

Keep the documentation for your records.

The microchip number must be recorded on all documents.

List of all tests and treatments

Take your dog to a registered/licensed veterinarian to conduct the following tests and treatments.

Canine heartworm *(Dirofilaria immitis)*

Conduct **(ELISA) enzyme linked immunosorbent assay test**. If six months or older when flying, your dog must have a heartworm test in the 30 days prior to the date of shipment. All dogs must be treated with a product registered for the prevention of heartworm four days prior to flying to New Zealand or be up-to-date with a sustained-release injection registered for heartworm prevention (ivermectin, milbemycin, selamectin or moxidectin). Refer to Model Veterinary Certificate for dose rates

Babesia canis and *Babesia gibsoni*

Conduct **(IFAT) immunofluorescence antibody test** or **(ELISA) enzyme linked immunosorbent assay test**. Your dog must have a negative result in the 16 days prior to flying to New Zealand. If using PCR test, your dog must have negative results on two samples collected 30–37 days apart, with the second sample collected in the 16 days prior to flying to New Zealand

Note: *Babesia canis* test is only required if your dog has ever travelled to or resided in South Africa.

Dogs diagnosed with *Babesia gibsoni* are not eligible to come to New Zealand, regardless of treatment.

External parasites

Your dog must be treated twice, with the first treatment give in the 30 days prior to flying and at least two weeks before the second treatment which is given in the two days prior to flying to New Zealand. External parasite treatment must be effective against fleas and ticks

Internal parasites

Your dog must be treated twice with the first treatment given 30 days prior to flying and at least two weeks before the second treatment, which is given in the four days prior to flying. Internal parasite treatment must be effective against nematodes and cestodes.

Canine transmissible venereal tumour (CTVT)

Entire dogs are subjected to an examination of the external genitalia by a veterinarian in the 2 days prior to flying to New Zealand.

Final veterinary examination

A veterinarian must perform a final pre-export clinical examination in the 2 days prior to shipment. Your dog must be free of evidence of external parasites and clinical signs of infectious and contagious disease.

In New Zealand

Settling in

If your dog is found to be unwell after release from quarantine, you should take it to a veterinarian. Tell the veterinarian that your dog has recently arrived in New Zealand and what country it came from.

You must register your dog with your local Council in New Zealand.

What if...

My dog has a positive test result?

If your dog registers a positive result for any test this may impact the time it takes to prepare your dog for import into New Zealand. Contact animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz prior to re-testing to ensure the right test is done in the correct timeframe.

The flight is delayed?

Contact: animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz.

The test results are not back in time for shipment?

Test results must be back before your dog can be shipped to New Zealand.

My dog is unwell or injured prior to travel?

It is very important that your dog is it and healthy to travel prior to shipment. Contact animal imports for further information at animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz.

Appendix

Online permit application (where applicable)

https://animalplantimportpermit.mpi.govt.nz/

Category 1 Model Veterinary Certificate A

https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/5788-category-1-model-veterinary-certificate-a-cats-and-dogs-from-australiaincludes_norfolk-island

Category 1 Model Veterinary Certificate B

https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/5776-category-1-model-veterinary-certificate-b-cats-and-dogs-from-australiaincludes_norfolk-island

Declaration of medicines

https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/1580-acvm-21-importation-of-veterinary-medicines-for-use-only-on-accompanied-animals

Guidance Document: Cats and Dogs

http://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/1575-cats-and-dogs-import-health-standard-guidance-document

IATA requirements for travel crates

https://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live-animals/Documents/pet-container-requirements.pdf

Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs

https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/1574-cats-and-dogs-import-health-standard

MPI Veterinary Inspection form

https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/4648-application-for-veterinary-inspection-cats-and-dogs-from-australia

Glossary

Competent authority

The veterinary or government authority of an exporting country with responsibilities for providing international veterinary certification

CTVT

Canine transmissible venereal tumour

ELISA

Enzyme linked immunosorbent assay test

IATA

International air transport association

IFAT

Immunofluorescence antibody tes

MPI

Ministry for Primary Industries

Official government veterinarian

A veterinarian authorised in the country of export to sign and endorse veterinary certificates and supporting documentation for export.

PCR

polymerase chain reaction

Registered/licensed veterinarian

A veterinarian who can do all tests and treatments and provide advice.

Dog import checklist

Follow the checklist to prepare your dog to come into New Zealand.

The Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) recommends you use a pet transporter to assist with the arrangements of tests, treatments, flights, shipping crates etc. Some airlines only accept bookings made by a pet transporter. Check directly with airlines about booking requirements and any other conditions.

Check the rules for the country your dog is travelling from. Different countries have different rules for what each veterinaria must do. We recommend you try to find a veterinarian who has prepared dogs for travel to New Zealand before.

Keep all documentation as proof that your dog meets all requirements. Your dog's microchip number must be recorded on all documentation.

7–8 weeks before export

Ask your veterinarian to:

- ◯ Implant a microchip, or check the presence of a microchip
- ◯ Take a blood sample for the first *Babesia gibsoni* PCR test (if using the PCR test option)
- ◯ Organise a travel crate

Date completed: _____

Notes

In the 30 days before export

Ask your veterinarian to:

- ◯ Scan and check the microchip number
- ◯ Take a blood sample(s) to test for heartworm
- ◯ Perform an examination to ensure your pet is free from visible signs of external parasites
- ◯ Give the first treatment for external parasites (fleas and tick
- ◯ Give the first treatment for internal parasites (nematodes an cestodes)

Date completed: _____

Notes

In the 16 days before export

Ask your veterinarian to:

- ◯ Scan and check the microchip number

Take a blood sample(s) to test for:

- ◯ *Babesia gibsoni* (IFAT, ELISA or second PCR* test)

* Must be 30-37 days between the first and second sample taken for the PCR test

Date completed: _____

Notes

In the 5 days before export

- ◯ Notify MPI of arrival

Date completed: _____

Notes

In the 4 days before export

Ask your veterinarian to:

- ◯ Scan and check the microchip number
- ◯ Give heartworm treatment

Date completed: _____

Notes

In the 2 days before export

	Date completed:	Notes
Ask your veterinarian to:		
◯ Scan and check the microchip number	_____	
Perform an examination to check your pet is free from:		
◯ External parasites	_____	
◯ Clinical signs of infectious disease	_____	
◯ Visible signs of canine transmissible venereal tumour (CTVT) (Only for dogs that are not castrated or spayed)	_____	
◯ Check your pet is fit and healthy to trave	_____	
◯ Give your pet their second internal and external parasite treatment (fleas, ticks, nematodes and cestodes	_____	
◯ Get *Model Veterinary Certificate A* and *B* signed, dated and stamped by an official government veterinari	_____	
◯ Complete canine influenza declaration (if *Model Veterinary Certificate A* does not include a canine influenza clause thi declaration must accompany your dog)	_____	
◯ Get an official seal to put on your pe s crate	_____	

On the day of travel

	Date completed:	Notes
◯ Put the seal on the travel crate	_____	
Make sure the following documents travel with your pet:		
◯ Import permit (where applicable)	_____	
◯ Original *Model Veterinary Certificates A* and *B*	_____	
◯ Original laboratory reports, or copies endorsed by an offici government veterinarian	_____	
◯ Declaration of medicines (if required)	_____	
◯ Other documents required by the airline	_____	