

# Bringing your assistance dog to New Zealand

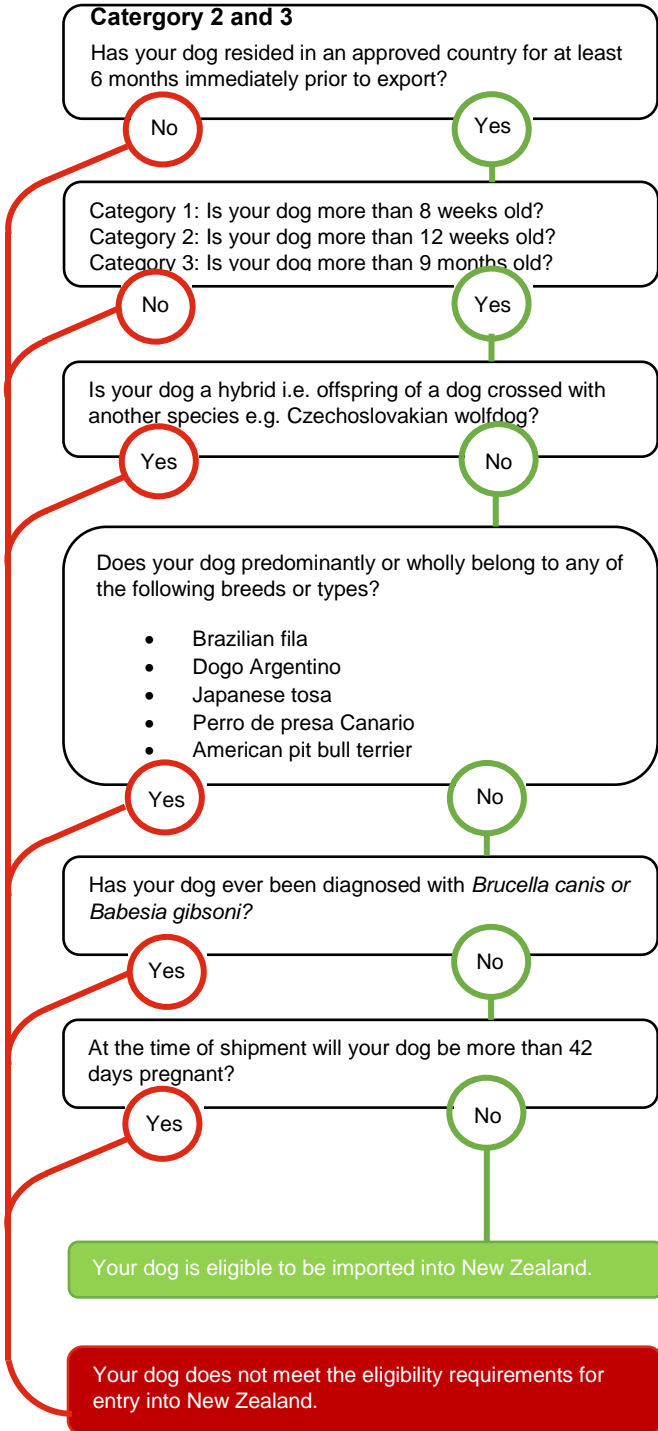
Support document and checklist for assistance dogs  
coming from **Category 1, 2 and 3** countries



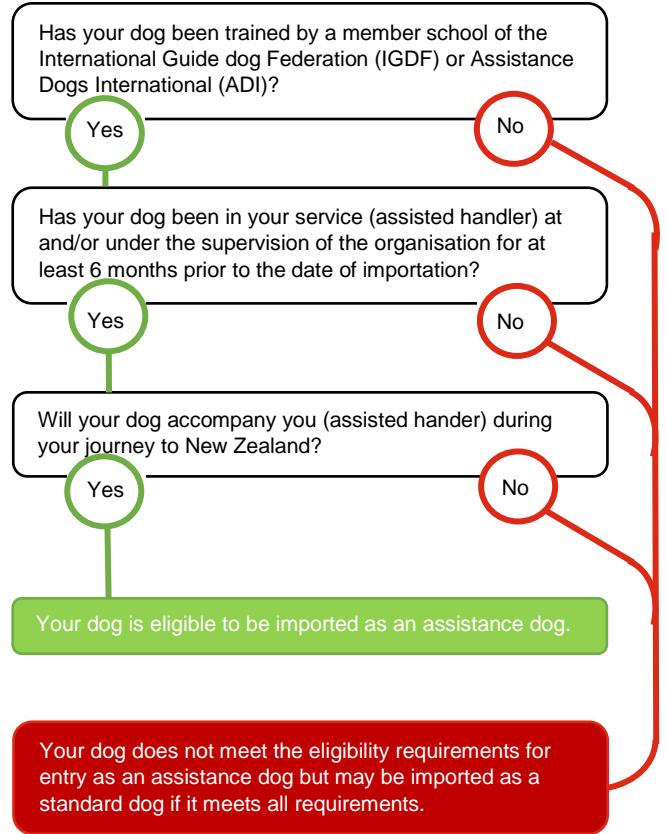
# Eligibility questions

Check that your dog meets the eligibility criteria for importing a dog into New Zealand. Then check if your dog meets eligibility criteria for importing an assistance dog.

## Is your dog eligible?



## Is your assistance dog eligible?



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# About

There are three categories of country you can import cats and dogs from, once all requirements in the [Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs \(IHS\)](#) have been met.

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

This supporting document is to help people bringing their assistance dog to New Zealand from a **Category 1, 2 or 3** 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 your dog into New Zealand.

The *Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs* provides the requirements (must do) for importing your dog, and the accompanying guidance document (links above) provides advice on how to meet the requirements. This supporting document is to aid in the process, not replace either of the above documents.

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

# Overview

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

- held in quarantine, or held longer than the minimum requirement of 10 days 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 for 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 and treatments, flights, 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 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 bring their assistance dog to New Zealand from a **category 1, 2 or 3** country. The document has been broken down into stages to help you navigate through the process. A checklist for each category is included to help ensure you complete each step at the correct time.

**Note:** Unless the category of country (1, 2, or 3) is specifically stated, the information in this document is relevant to all categories of country your assistance dog is being imported from.

## Eligibility

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

- be a domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*)

### Category 2 and 3

- reside in an approved country for at least 6 months (or since birth) immediately before coming to New Zealand

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/type and their crosses are **not eligible** to enter New Zealand:

- Brazilian fila
- Dogo Argentino
- Japanese tosa
- Perro de presa Canario
- American pit bull terrier

Dogs diagnosed with *Babesia gibsoni* or *Brucella canis* are not eligible to enter New Zealand, regardless of treatment.

To be eligible to be shipped to New Zealand as an **assistance** dog your dog must have been:

- trained by a member school of the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF) or Assistance Dogs International (ADI)
- in your (the assisted handler's) service at and/or under the supervision of the organisation for at least 6 months prior to the date of importation
- accompany you (the assisted handler) during the journey to New Zealand

If your dog does not meet the MPI definition of an assistance dog, it may still travel to New Zealand under the standard import requirements.

## 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 your dog not meeting the requirements on arrival.

## Documentation

You must provide proof that your assistance dog meets all requirements (e.g. vaccination certificates, laboratory test results, etc.) relevant to the category of country your dog is coming from. 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
- complete and sign the *Official Veterinarian Declaration (OVD)* and *Model Certificate*

An **official government veterinarian** who:

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

Check the export requirements for the country your assistance 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 either New Zealand or Australia.

# Travel arrangements

## Travel

If your dog meets the MPI eligibility requirements for entry as an assistance dog, it may travel in the cabin with you (the assisted handler), if this is acceptable to the airline.

**Category 1:** Ensure that your flight is booked to coincide with the inspection times under *Arrival in New Zealand*.

## Notification

### Category 1

You will need to notify MPI at the port of arrival at least 5 working days before your assistance dog arrives in New Zealand. Complete the [MPI Veterinary Inspection Form](#) for notification and email to: [ozdogsandcats@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:ozdogsandcats@mpi.govt.nz).

If you have any questions and your pet is arriving in **Auckland**:

Email: [liveanimalsauckland@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:liveanimalsauckland@mpi.govt.nz)

Phone: +64 9 909 2706

If you have any questions and your pet is arriving in **Christchurch**:

Email: [liveanimalgroup@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:liveanimalgroup@mpi.govt.nz)

Phone: +64 3 943 1777

### Category 2 and 3

You will need to notify MPI at the port of arrival at least 72 hours before the scheduled time of arrival of your assistance dog. Include the following details in the notification:

- flight/ship number
- date and time of arrival
- consignee's name and contact details
- species and breed
- number of animals in consignment
- country of origin
- bill of lading (if known)
- advise that you (the assisted handler) is on the same flight

## Travelling with medicines

If your assistance dog is taking any medication, you must send MPI a copy of the prescription before, or when the animal arrives in New Zealand. If the veterinary medicine is travelling with your dog, 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 of travel

On the date of travel your assistance dog must travel with the following:

- **Category 2 and 3:** An import permit issued by MPI
- the original *Model Veterinary Certificate A*, signed, endorsed and dated
- the original *Model Veterinary Certificate B*, signed, endorsed and dated

- original laboratory reports and rabies vaccination records (where applicable), or copies endorsed by the official government veterinarian
- if the dog has medication; a copy of the prescription and declaration (if needed)
- any other documents as required by the airline

## Arrival in New Zealand

On arrival in New Zealand your assistance dog will be inspected by an official veterinarian.

**Category 1:** 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 all requirements have been met your assistance dog will:

- **Category 1:** be cleared for entry into New Zealand.
- **Category 2 and 3:** become eligible for a home quarantine agreement. At the time of arrival talk to the official veterinarian about the arrangements for clearing your assistance dog after the 10 day home quarantine period has been completed.

If your assistance dog is found to have ticks or fleas, your dog will be directed to a quarantine facility for further testing and treatment (at the importer's expense).

If your assistance dog is found to have ticks or fleas after release from home quarantine (or from a quarantine facility) or is unwell, you should take it to a veterinarian. Tell the veterinarian that your animal recently arrived in New Zealand and what country it came from.

## Documentation

You will need to send a copy of the completed documentation to MPI at least one working day before your assistance dog arrives in New Zealand. This allows MPI to ensure that your dog meets the import requirements prior to arrival.

### Category 1

Email: [ozdogsandcats@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:ozdogsandcats@mpi.govt.nz)

Phone: Auckland +64 9 909 3524  
Christchurch +64 3 943 7112

### Category 2 and 3

Email: Auckland [liveanimalsauckland@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:liveanimalsauckland@mpi.govt.nz)

Phone: +64 9 909 2706

Email: Christchurch [liveanimalgroup@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:liveanimalgroup@mpi.govt.nz)

Phone: +64 3 943 1777

## Official Veterinarian Declaration (OVD)

### Category 3 only

Your veterinarian must prepare the OVD, then an official government veterinarian must sign and endorse the OVD. This OVD certifies the following:

- the date the microchip was implanted or the date the microchip was scanned and verified by a veterinarian
- microchip number of your dog
- date(s) of rabies vaccination(s)
- date the blood sample was taken for the rabies neutralising antibody titre (RNAT) test
- result of the RNAT test

Copies of any documentation must also be endorsed by an official government veterinarian.

**The OVD must be fully completed before you can apply for an import permit.**

## Import permit

An import permit is required for entry from all **Category 2 and 3** countries.

MPI needs a minimum of 20 working days (approximately four weeks) to process your application for a permit. Ensure you have submitted the application with enough time for processing.

To prevent delays in processing your application please ensure you attach all the required documents and email to:

[animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz).

- a completed permit application form that applies to either [category 2](#) or [category 3](#) countries
- a copy of the home quarantine letter completed and signed
- official vet declaration (OVD).
- rabies neutralising antibody titre (RNAT) test laboratory report
- rabies vaccination records

If your dog has met the MPI definition of an assistance dog and complies with the import requirements, this will be stated on the import permit and MPI charges will not apply.

## Model veterinary certificates A and B

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

- your veterinarian prepares *Model Veterinary Certificate A*
- the official government veterinarian prepares *Model Veterinary Certificate B* and signs, dates and endorses both *Model Veterinary Certificates A* and *B*.

## Declarations for model veterinary certificates

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

- **Category 2 and 3:** has resided continuously in an approved country for the 6 months (or since birth) immediately before date of shipment
- will not be more than 42 days pregnant on the date of shipment

For at least 21 days prior to shipment your assistance 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

**For entire dogs only**, you also need to declare that to the best of your knowledge, in the **44 days prior** to the date of shipment:

- the dog did not naturally mate unless to a dog of equal *Brucella canis* health status

**For entire female dogs only:**

- any artificial insemination was done with semen that meets the relevant New Zealand import health standard for semen

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

## Tests and treatments

There are checklists at the end of this support document to help you and your veterinarian plan when to test and treat your assistance dog for export to New Zealand. Ensure you use the one related to the category of country you are importing your dog from.

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

Your assistance dog may require re-testing for any positive or inconclusive test results. This is likely to alter the timeline for travel to New Zealand. Contact [animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz) before re-testing.

## Finding the right people to help you

Contact the competent authority in the country your assistance 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 assistance dog to come to New Zealand
- a veterinarian authorised to complete and sign *Model Veterinary Certificate A*
- approved testing laboratories
- an official government veterinarian authorised to endorse *Model Veterinary Certificate B* and other export documentation

Using a pet transporter makes preparing your assistance dog easier.

## Microchip

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

Microchips that meet International Standards Organisation (ISO) specifications 11784 or Annex A of 11785 are generally used. If the microchip does not meet the ISO standard specifications, you will need to check the microchip can be read in New Zealand.

The microchip number must be recorded on all documents.

**Keep the documentation. You may need proof of when the microchip was implanted or the date it was verified by the veterinarian for the *Official Veterinarian Declaration* (for category 3 countries).**

## List of tests and treatments

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

### Category 3 only

#### Rabies vaccination

Your assistance dog must be vaccinated with an inactivated rabies vaccine or recombinant vaccine that was administered when the dog was at least three months old.

- If this is your assistance dog's primary (first) rabies vaccination, the vaccine must be administered no less than 6 months and no more than 12 months prior to travel. You must provide the primary rabies vaccination certificate.
- If your assistance dog is receiving a booster vaccination then it must be administered before the previous rabies vaccination has lapsed and no more than 12 months prior to travel. You must provide a record of the most recent and previous vaccination.

If the previous vaccination has expired, the next vaccination will be considered primary.

**Keep the rabies vaccination documentation for the OVD.**

#### Rabies neutralising antibody titre test (RNATT)

An RNAT test must be performed to show your assistance dog is adequately protected against rabies. We recommend that you wait three to four weeks after your dog has received a primary vaccination.

- An RNAT test must be performed on a blood sample collected not less than 3 months and not more than 24 months prior to your assistance dog departing for New Zealand.
- The samples must be subjected to either a fluorescent antibody virus neutralisation (FAVN) test or a rapid fluorescent focus inhibition (RFFI) test by a government approved laboratory.
- The test result must be 0.5IU/ml or more. If the result is less than this your assistance dog will need to be revaccinated and the titre test repeated 3-4 weeks later.
- Your assistance dog must remain continuously vaccinated against rabies from the date the blood sample was taken for the RNAT test.

**Keep any RNATT documentation for your OVD.**

### Category 2 and 3 only

#### Leptospirosis (*Leptospira interrogans serovar canicola*)

Your assistance dog must be treated with a therapeutic dose of doxycycline i.e. 5 – 10 mg/kg for at least 14 consecutive days, or have a microscopic agglutination test (MAT) with a negative result in the 30 days prior to flying to New Zealand.

If your dog has a positive MAT of 1:400 or less; you may either retest your assistance dog at least 14 days after the first test with a MAT and result that shows no increase above the titre of the first test, or your assistance dog must be treated with doxycycline for at least 14 consecutive days in the 30 days prior to shipment. Retain a record of the dates that treatment started and ended and the veterinary prescription/letter.

#### *Brucella canis*

Conduct either a **rapid slide agglutination test (RSAT), tube agglutination test (TAT), or cytoplasmic agar gel immunodiffusion test (CPAg-AGID)**. Your dog must have a negative test result in the 16 days prior to flying to New Zealand. If your dog returns a positive or inconclusive result for *Brucella canis*, there are a number of options for retesting to demonstrate a negative result in the 16 days prior to your dog travelling to New Zealand. Note that a positive result is not necessarily a 'diagnosis'.

**Option 1:** If there is a positive or inconclusive RSAT or TAT result then do a repeat test using CPAg-AGID in the 16 days prior to flying to New Zealand, or

**Option 2:** If there is a suspicious TAT result then repeat this test at least 30 – 42 days after the first test, and in the 16 days prior to flying to New Zealand.

**Note:** For entire dogs only, you must declare that the assistance dog has not been mated in the 44 days prior to the date of shipment unless to a dog of equal *Brucella canis* health status. Any artificial insemination must be done with semen that meets the relevant New Zealand import health standard.

**Dogs diagnosed with *Brucella canis* are not eligible for import, regardless of treatment.**

### Category 1, 2 and 3

#### Canine heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*)

Conduct an **enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test**. Your assistance 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 **immunofluorescence antibody test (IFAT) or enzyme linked immunosorbent assay test (ELISA)**. 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 assistance dog must be treated twice, with the first treatment given 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 assistance 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 assistance 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 arrival. Your assistance dog must be free of evidence of external parasites and clinical signs of infectious and contagious disease.



# In New Zealand

## Settling in

If your assistance dog is found to be unwell after release on arrival in New Zealand 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.

For information on your dog being certified as a 'disability assist' dog in New Zealand, please contact one of the following authorised organisations:

- Hearing Dogs:  
<https://hearingdogs.org.nz/>
- Mobility Dogs:  
<https://mobilitydogs.co.nz/>
- NZ Epilepsy Assist Dog Trust:  
<http://www.nzepilepsyassistdogs.org.nz/>
- Blind Foundation:  
<https://blindfoundation.org.nz/>
- Perfect Partners Assistance Dogs Trust:  
<http://www.ppadt.org.nz/>
- Assistance Dogs NZ Trust:  
<https://assistancedogstrust.org.nz/>

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

## What if...

### My dog has a positive test result?

If your assistance 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](mailto: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](mailto:animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz).

### The test results are not back in time for shipment?

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

### My dog is unwell or injured prior to travel?

It is very important that your assistance dog is fit and healthy to travel prior to shipment. Contact [animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz) for further information.

# Appendix

## 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>

## Category 2 Import Permit Application

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/1579-category-2-permit-toimport-cats-and-dogs-from-rabies-free-countries-application-form>

## Category 2 Model Veterinary Certificate A

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/5779-category-2-model-veterinary-certificate-a-cats-and-dogs-from-countries-orterritories-recognised-as-rabies-free>

## Category 2 Model Veterinary Certificate B

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/5770-category-2-model-veterinary-certificate-b-cats-and-dogs-from-countries-orterritories-recognised-as-rabies-free>

## Category 3 Import Permit Application

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/1578-category-3-permit-toimport-cats-and-dogs-from-countries-where-rabies-is-absent-or-well-controlled-application-form>

## Category 3 Model Veterinary Certificate A

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/5782-category-3-model-veterinary-certificate-a-cats-and-dogs-from-specified-countries-or-territories-where-rabies-is-absent-or-well-controlled>

## Category 3 Model Veterinary Certificate B

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/5785-category-3-model-veterinary-certificate-b-cats-and-dogs-from-specified-countries-or-territories-where-rabies-is-absent-or-well-controlled>

## 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>

## Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs

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

## Glossary

### **Competent Authority**

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

### **CPAg-AGID**

Cytoplasmic agar gel immunodiffusion test

### **CTVT**

Canine transmissible venereal tumour

### **ELISA**

Enzyme linked immunosorbent assay test

### **FAVN**

Fluorescent antibody virus neutralisation test

### **IATA**

International air transport association

### **IFAT**

Immunofluorescence antibody test

### **MAT**

Microscopic agglutination test

### **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.

### **OVD**

Official Veterinarian Declaration

### **PCR**

Polymerase chain reaction

### **Registered/licensed veterinarian**

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

### **RNATT**

Rabies Neutralising Antibody Titre Test

### **RSAT**

Rapid slide agglutination test

### **TAT**

Tube agglutination test

## Dog import checklist

Follow the checklist relevant to the category of country your assistance dog is coming from, to prepare your dog to come into New Zealand. The checklists are on the following pages.

MPI recommends you use a pet transporter to assist with the arrangements of tests, treatments and flights 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 veterinarian 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.**

# Assistance dog import checklist category 1

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

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

Start here and follow the category 1 checklist below

## 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* and *Babesia canis* (if required) PCR test (if using the PCR test option)

Date completed:

Notes

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## 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 dog 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 and cestodes)

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## 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)

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

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## In the 5 working days before export

- Notify MPI at least 5 working days before your assistance dog arrives in New Zealand.

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## In the 2 days before export

Ask your veterinarian to:

- Scan and check the microchip number
- Perform an examination to check your dog 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 dog is fit and healthy to travel
- Give your dog 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 veterinarian
- Send MPI completed veterinary certificates and laboratory reports
- Complete canine influenza declaration (if *Model Veterinary Certificate A* does not include a canine influenza clause this declaration must accompany your dog)

Date completed:

Notes

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## On the day of travel

Make sure the following documents travel with your pet:

- Original *Model Veterinary Certificates A* and *B*
- Original laboratory reports, or copies endorsed by an official government veterinarian
- Declaration of medicines (if required)
- Other documents required by the airline

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End of checklist for category 1 countries

# Assistance dog import checklist category 2

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

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

Start here and follow the category 2 checklist below

Date completed: Notes

## 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)
- Apply for an import permit

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## 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
  - Leptospira interrogans* serovar *canicola*, or
  - Start leptospirosis treatment
  - Perform an examination to ensure your dog 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 and cestodes)

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## 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)  
**Note:** Must be 30-37 days between the first and second sample being taken for the PCR test.
  - Babesia canis* (South Africa only)
  - Brucella canis*

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## In the 2 days before export

Ask your veterinarian to:

- Scan and check the microchip number

Please continue on next page for rest of checklist.

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## In the 2 days before export continued

Ask your veterinarian to:

Perform an examination to check your dog 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 dog is fit and healthy to travel
- Give your dog 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 veterinarian
- Send MPI completed veterinary certificates and laboratory reports
- Complete canine influenza declaration (if *Model Veterinary Certificate A* does not include a canine influenza clause this declaration must accompany your dog)

Date completed:

Notes

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## On the day of travel

Make sure the following documents travel with your pet:

- Import permit
- Original *Model Veterinary Certificates A* and *B*
- Original laboratory reports, or copies endorsed by an official government veterinarian
- Original vaccination records
- Declaration of medicines (if required)
- Other documents required by the airline

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End of checklist for category 2 countries

# Assistance dog import checklist category 3

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

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

Start here and follow the category 3 checklist below

	Date completed:	Notes
<p><b>In the 12 months before export</b>      <b>OR</b>      <b>In the 6–12 months before export</b></p> <p>Ask your veterinarian to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="radio"/> Implant a microchip, or check the presence of a microchip</li><li><input type="radio"/> Give your dog a rabies booster<sup>1</sup> vaccination</li><li><input type="radio"/> Record the microchip number and vaccination details</li></ul>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b>At least 3 months before export</b></p> <p>Ask your veterinarian to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="radio"/> Scan and check the microchip number</li><li><input type="radio"/> Take a blood sample to test that your dog is protected against rabies</li></ul>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b>7–8 weeks before export</b></p> <p>Ask your veterinarian to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="radio"/> Scan and check the microchip number</li><li><input type="radio"/> Take a blood sample for the first <i>Babesia gibsoni</i> PCR test (if using the PCR test option)</li><li><input type="radio"/> Get an official veterinarian declaration (OVD) completed by veterinarian that is signed and endorsed by an official government veterinarian</li><li><input type="radio"/> Apply for an import permit</li></ul>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b>In the 30 days before export</b></p> <p>Ask your veterinarian to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="radio"/> Scan and check the microchip number</li><li><input type="radio"/> heartworm</li><li><input type="radio"/> <i>Leptospira interrogans</i> serovar <i>canicola</i>, or</li><li><input type="radio"/> Start leptospirosis treatment</li><li><input type="radio"/> Perform an examination to ensure dog is free from visible signs of external parasites</li><li><input type="radio"/> Give the first treatment for external parasites (fleas and tick</li><li><input type="radio"/> Give the first treatment for internal parasites (nematodes and cestodes)</li></ul>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

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)  
**Note:** Must be 30-37 days between the first and second sample being taken for the PCR test.
- Babesia canis* (South Africa only)
- Brucella canis*

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### In the 2 days before export

Ask your veterinarian to:

- Scan and check the microchip number

Perform an examination to check your dog 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 dog is fit and healthy to travel
- Give your dog 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 veterinarian
- Send MPI completed veterinary certificates and laboratory reports
- Complete canine influenza declaration (if *Model Veterinary Certificate A* does not include a canine influenza clause this declaration must accompany your dog)

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### On the day of travel

Make sure the following documents travel with your pet:

- Import permit
- Original *Model Veterinary Certificates A* and *B*
- Original laboratory reports, or copies endorsed by an official government veterinarian
- Original vaccination records
- Declaration of medicines (if required)
- Other documents required by the airline

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End of checklist for category 3 countries

### Notes

1. A booster vaccination is one that is given before the previous vaccination expires
2. A primary vaccination is the first rabies vaccination(s) that your pet has received, or a vaccination given after the previous vaccination has expired