



EXPORT PROTOCOL FOR PETS

The movement of pets is subject to animal health rules to prevent extension of diseases potentially transmissible to humans and other animals. The destination countries set out various conditions that these animals must meet for your entry in order to prevent the spread of these diseases

This protocol sets out the various steps to be taken when a pet is destined for a country outside the European Union (third countries).

1. CONSULTATION WITH THE EMBASSY OR CONSULATE OF THE COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

The requirements for the importation of pets are set by the country that receives them.

For this reason, the first thing a person who is going to travel with their pet (or who is to send) to a third country, is to consult the Embassy or Consulate of the country of destination the import conditions for pets, and in particular

- If there is a specific model of import certificate
- If the official export certificate accompanying the animal needs to be endorsed by the Embassy/Consulate, or it is validated by "Apostille (Convention de La Haye du 5 octobre 1961)", or neither.

However, the SG for Health Agreements and Border Control (SGASCF) and the animal health inspectors of the Government Delegations and Sub-delegations functionally dependent on it, information on the import requirements of certain countries may be available, and this information is collected on the [CEXGAN](#), [LINK](#) website:

This information is only for guidance and does not exempt the owner of the pet from consulting the relevant Embassy or Consulate if the import conditions are those in force.

In general, there is not a systematic communication by the competent authorities of third countries of any change in their pet import procedure, SGASCF and animal health inspectors **are not responsible for that the information they have is the most up-to-date and valid for the countries of destiny.**

2. ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE

Once the import requirements have been obtained, a registered clinical veterinarian will certify in the model edited by the General Council of Veterinary Associations, which the animal does not present symptoms of infectious diseases, who is fit to travel, who is vaccinated against rabies, and any other end required by the country of destination.

This certificate will be valid for a maximum of 10 days.

However, if the country of destination requires, for example, that the dog be certified as being in good health within 48 hours prior to shipment, this certificate must be issued within that time. In addition, if the exportation certificate for the country in question includes deadlines for vaccinations and/or deworming, it is important to reflect the dates of vaccination and/or deworming in the health certificate, unless these are indicated on

the animal's health card, and the owner provides to the official veterinarian this information so that he or she can certify what is required.

It should also be taken into account that in cases where, due to the absence or lack of specific requirements, the health certificate needs to be accompanied by a generic export certificate, the health information in the certificate should be in a language that can be understood by the country of destination.

3. OFFICIAL EXPORT CERTIFICATE

Once the health certificate has been obtained, the official export certificate will be issued by the official veterinary services who are in the Agricultural Areas of the Government Delegations and sub-delegations.

To contact the official veterinarians, information is available on the CEXGAN website. Depending on the country, the procedure for issuing an official certificate of export will be different.

Countries that have not established specific import requirements:

Where a certain third country does not indicate specific import requirements or only point out those of a general demand such as that the animal must be in good health, fit to travel and/or vaccinated against rabies, the official veterinarian shall issue a **generic** export certificate to accompany the certificate from the veterinary clinic.

Countries that have established specific import requirements:

Where specific import requirements and/or a specific model import certificate are established for a given third country, these requirements shall be reflected in a **specific export certificate (ASE)** issued by the official veterinarian.

In these cases, it is not necessary that the clinical certificate be attached to the ASE, since the latter will have been issued based on the information of the former, and the original clinical certificate will generally remain with the veterinary service issuing the certificate.

Countries that have established a model certificate for two signatures

There are countries (e.g. Japan, Australia) whose model certificate has a section to be completed by the clinical veterinarian and a section for endorsement by the official competent authority.

In these cases, the clinical veterinarian should proceed in this manner, and it is not necessary to use the model certificate issued by the General Council of Veterinary Associations.

NOTE: It should be noted that in addition to the export certificate there are countries that establish other requirements such as a quarantine reserve or the issuance of a previous import.

4. LEGALIZATION: APOSTILLE CONVECTION/CONSULAR RECOGNITION

Finally, there are countries for which the official certificate of the Kingdom of Spain is sufficient, and others which require the export certificate to be validated by legalisation through the The Hague Convection (Apostille Treaty), or Consular Recognition. Therefore, it is necessary to consult this aspect with the destination Consulate/ Embassy.

In the event that one of these two procedures is necessary, both The Hague Apostille and the Consular Recognition will be carried out only on the public document, that is to say, the official certificate, not the veterinary clinic certificate.

NOTE: In practice, there are very few countries that require this requirement.

The Hague Apostille:

The Hague Apostille is the legalization used by countries that are signatories to the Hague Convention.

If a country requires the official certificate to be apostilled, the interested party should first contact the Subdirectorato General for Health Agreements and Border Control of the Ministry of Agriculture and fisheries and food (C/ Almagro, 33 - 28010 Madrid) to validate the signature of the inspector who issued the official certificate.

You can then take the document to be apostilled, according to the following linkage:

<https://www.mjusticia.gob.es/cs/Satellite/Portal/es/area-internacional/apostilla-haya>

Consular Recognition:

Consular Recognition is a legalization that can be used by non-signatory countries of the Hague Convention.

As in the previous case, it is first necessary to contact the Subdirectorato General for Health Agreements and Border Control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment (C/ Almagro, 33 - 28010 Madrid) to validate the signature of the inspector who issued the official certificate.

Secondly, it is necessary to legalize the official export certificate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. More information can be found at the following link:

<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/portal/es/serviciosalciudadano/siestasenelextranjero/paginas/legalizaciones.aspx>

Finally, you can take the document to be legalized at the Embassy or Consulate of the third country in question.

5. RETURN TO SPAIN WITH THE PET (DOGS, CATS, FERRETS)

It is important to take certain aspects into account when travelling with one of these pets to a country outside the European Union to return later.

[Regulation 576/2013](#) provides that dogs, cats and ferrets coming from a country not listed in its Annex II, must undergo a serological test against rage. See:

In this respect, there are two options:

- The animal, once vaccinated against rabies (and with the vaccine in force, considering that at 30 days after the first vaccination to be considered as such), he has been taking a blood sample for a serological test, in an authorized laboratory by the EU, before leaving Spain.
- The animal leaves Spain to visit a non-listed country without being tested.

In this second case, it must be taken into account that the serological test must be carried out before return to Spain in one of the laboratories authorized by the EU, and

not in all countries there is one of these laboratories. See the list of approved laboratories at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/approved-labs/index_en.htm

Furthermore, in this second case, three months must pass from the time the blood is drawn for analysis until the animal is authorised to come to Spain.

For the above reasons, owners of pets **must be well informed** that if they are going to travel to a third country outside the list, and plan to return, it is very convenient to opt for a serological test before leaving (if the rabies vaccination schedule is not broken, this test will be valid for the entire life of the animal).

More information on the conditions for importing pets can be found at the following link:

<https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/comercio-exterior-ganadero/desplazamiento-animales-compania/default.aspx>