



Royal Government of Bhutan
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA)



PROTOCOL FOR IMPORTATION OF DOGS AND CATS INTO BHUTAN

I. Any individual, agency or company wishing to import dogs and cats into the Kingdom of Bhutan should apply for import permit to the Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA), Ministry of Agriculture and Forests. The application for import permit should reach the office of BAFRA at least 4 weeks before the scheduled date of entry of dogs and cats into Bhutan.

II. The application for import permit must provide full details of the animal such as date of birth, sex, breed, colour, coat type or identification marks and the animal must be correctly identified with electronic microchip or tag at the time of entry (Application for import of pets)

III. The animal must be accompanied by the zoosanitary certificate signed by the official veterinarian certifying that:

1. The animal is free from clinical signs or symptoms of infectious or contagious disease and fit to travel within 48 hours.
2. The animal has been vaccinated against rabies, canine distemper, parvovirus, infectious canine hepatitis and *Leptospira interrogans* Canicola and *Leptospira interrogans* Icterohaemorrhagiae. The vaccinations should be done at least one month before the date of entry except for rabies.
3. In the case of primary rabies vaccination, the animal has been vaccinated with inactivated rabies vaccine not less than 6 months and not more than 1 year prior to the date of entry. In the case of booster vaccination, the animal should have been vaccinated not more than 1 year prior to its entry.
4. The animal has been subjected to neutralizing antibody titration test for rabies virus and the serum must contain at least 0.5 International Unit (IU)/ml. The tests must have been carried out not less than 3 months and not more than 24 months prior to the date of entry.
5. The animal has been treated with broad spectrum endo-parasitocidal and ecto-parasitocidal drugs at least one week before the date of entry and must be free from ecto parasites upon entry.
6. The animal must not be more than 42 days pregnant at the date of departure.
7. Animals must be weaned. In the case of any animals accompanied by their mother, the animals must be at least 6 weeks old at the date of departure.
8. The zoosanitary certificate should be written in English.

IV. The following requirements must be met while transporting the animal to Bhutan:

1. If transported by air, the animal must be carried in an approved container that meets the International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.
2. The container must be nose and paw proof with ventilation openings of such size that is impossible for the animal to protrude its nose or paws outside the container.
3. Only soft board and new or clean clothes may be used as bedding. The use of straw or hay is not permitted.
4. The container must be new or thoroughly cleaned prior to use and must be free of dirt and ticks.



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V. Upon entry in Bhutan, the animal must be declared and presented to the Quarantine Inspectors for examination along with necessary documents.

1. The Quarantine Inspector shall examine the consignment and accompanied documents on arrival. If animal is free from clinical signs or symptoms of infectious disease and if animal, bedding, containers used for carrying animal are free of ectoparasites, a biosecurity clearance will be issued without the need for quarantining in the quarantine station.
2. If the documentation is not in order or import requirements are not met or animal is suspected to be diseased or ectoparasites are found either on the body coat, in the bedding or container, the animal shall be paced under observation in the appropriately designed quarantine station for a minimum period of 20 days during which all necessary treatment and sample collection will be carried out at the expense of the owner.
3. Tourists, expatriates and foreigners visiting Bhutan along with their pets for a limited number of days must keep their pet within the compound of their residence or hotel and must be restraint with a lead while visiting places and should not be allowed to come in contact with local dogs and cats.
4. The owner on their return must take the dog back. However, if the animal is gifted to any one residing in Bhutan, it should be notified to the nearest office of BAFRA under which circumstances, they will be placed under observation for certain period.

VI. It is mandatory for animal owner to report any illness or suspicion of exotic disease to the nearest BAFRA Office.

VII. The BAFRA Inspector may visit the premises to examine the imported animal at any reasonable time if deemed necessary.

VIII. The BAFRA may amend these requirements as and when deemed necessary depending on the risk associated with the animal and the disease status of the exporting country.