L.N. 169 of 2001

PREVENTION OF DISEASE ORDINANCE (CAP. 36)

Pet Travel Scheme Regulations, 2001

IN exercise of the powers conferred by articles 3, 84 and 87 of the Prevention of Disease Ordinance, the Minister of Health, on the advice of the Council of Health, and the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, have made the following regulations:–

Title, application and extent.

1. (1) The title of these regulations is the Pet Travel Scheme, Regulations, 2001.

(2) These regulations shall apply in relation to pet cats and pet dogs.

Interpretation.

2. In this order –

"airport" means the aggregate of the land, buildings and works comprised in an aerodrome;

"carrier" means any undertaking carrying goods or passengers for hire by land, sea or air;

"cat" means a domestic cat (*Felis catus*);

"competent authority" of an exporting country is the authority responsible for animal health;

"the Director" means the Director of Veterinary Services;

"dog" means a domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*);

"microchip" means an electronic transponder;

"official health certificate" means a certificate prepared and distributed by the competent authority for completion and signature by an official veterinary surgeon in relation to rabies, and by a veterinary surgeon entitled to practice veterinary medicine in the country in which the treatment is administered in the case of *Echinococcus multilocularis* and ticks;

"official veterinary surgeon" means a veterinary surgeon authorised by the Minister for the purposes of these regulations, and outside Malta means a veterinary surgeon authorised by the

competent authority to grant certification for the purposes of the export of dogs and cats;

"the Ordinance" means the Prevention of Disease Ordinance;

"pet cats" and "pet dogs" means cats and dogs which are not traded commercially;

"recognised laboratory" means a laboratory recognised in writing by the Director as being competent to carry out blood tests for the purposes of these regulations;

"Superintendent" means the Superintendent of Public Health.

Exemption from quarantine for pet cats and pet dogs. L.N. 59 of 1998.

3. A person may bring a pet cat or pet dog into Malta without complying with the provisions of the Importation of Dogs and Cats Regulations, 1998 if all the conditions relating to the importation of such animal in these regulations are complied with.

Means of transport.

4. (1) The animal shall be brought into Malta using a carrier approved under regulation 8, travelling on a route specified in Schedule 1 to these regulations, without leaving the vessel, aircraft or train in which it is travelling between departure and arrival.

(2) In the event of a ship or aircraft on a schedule service being diverted from a route specified in Schedule 1 to these regulations to another place of landing in Malta, the animal shall be deemed to have been brought into Malta at the intended place of landing.

Identification of the animal.

5. (1) The animal shall be identified by means of a microchip implanted into its body.

(2) If the carrier does not have a reader capable of reading the microchip, the person bringing the animal into Malta shall provide a reader for the microchip at the time the carrier checks the identity of the animal.

Health status of the animal.

6. (1) After it has been microchipped, the animal shall:

(a) have been vaccinated against rabies in a country or part of country specified in Schedule 2 to these regulations after the age of three months by an injection of an inactivated vaccine approved by the competent authority of the country in which the vaccination takes place; and

(b) have had any necessary booster injection in a country or part of a country specified in Schedule 2 to these regulations at intervals specified by the manufacturer of the vaccine as indicated by the competent authority.

(2) After it has been vaccinated against rabies, and at least six months before it is brought into Malta, a blood sample must have been taken from the animal and tested for rabies antibodies using a virus neutralisation test at a recognised laboratory, with the result of that test demonstrating a protective antibody titre of at least 0.5 international units per millilitre. The six month period shall begin on the date that the sample was taken from the animal.

(3) Not less than 24 hours and not more than 48 hours before embarkation for Malta the animal must have been treated by a veterinary surgeon entitled to practise veterinary medicine in the country in which the treatment is administered against *Echinococcus multilocularis* and ticks, using a veterinary medicine with a marketing authorisation in the country in which the medicine is administered and at an appropriate dosage; and in the case of treatment against *Echinococcus mutilocularis* the medicine must contain prazinquantel as the active ingredient.

(4) The animal must not have been outside Malta or the countries or territories in Part I of Schedule 2 to these regulations (or, in the case of dogs assisting persons suffering from sensory impairment, those territories plus the countries in Part II of that Schedule) for the six month period immediately preceding the date it is brought into Malta.

(5) The Director shall recognise laboratories under this article to carry out tests if he is satisfied that they are capable of carrying out the test correctly.

(6) The Director shall publish a list of recognised laboratories in such manner as he thinks fit.

Documentation.

7. (1) The animal shall be accompanied by two official health certificates, one relating to rabies vaccination, including a copy of the rabies antibodies result, and one relating to treatment for *Echinococcus multilocularis* and ticks.

(2) The official health certificates shall be signed in relation to -

(a) rabies by an official veterinary surgeon of a country specified in Schedule 2 to these regulations, certifying that the certificate is accurate, and stamped by him with his official stamp;

(b) *Echinococcus multilocularis* and ticks by a veterinary surgeon entitled to practise veterinary medicine in the country in which the treatment is administered.

(3) The official health certificate relating to rabies vaccination shall contain the information specified in Schedule 3 to these regulations.

(4) The official health certificate relating to *Echinococcus multilocularis* and ticks shall state:

(a) the date and time of the treatment;

(b) the treatment used.

(5) In addition to the official health certificates, any person bringing in an animal in accordance with these regulations shall, at the time the animal is brought in, carry a written, signed declaration in English in the form set out in Schedule 4 to these regulations that the animal has not been outside the territories set out in the six months preceding the animal being brought into Malta.

(6) All certificates required under this article shall be in English but may, in addition to the English text, contain a translation in a language of any of the countries listed in Schedule 2.

Carriers.

8. (1) The Director may approve a carrier under this article to transport pets under the provisions of these regulations if he is satisfied that:

(a) the carrier complies with the requirements in Schedule 5 to these regulations;

(b) the written procedures and contingency plans required in that Schedule are adequate; and

(c) the carrier will comply with these regulations, the written procedures required in Schedule 5 and any conditions of the approval.

(2) The approval shall specify:

(a) where checks must be carried out;

(b) the routes to be used by the approved carrier to bring an animal into Malta; and

(c) any other conditions the Director considers appropriate.

(3) The carrier shall provide such information to the Director as the Director shall reasonably require.

Duties of approved carriers.

9. (1) Before bringing an animal into Malta, a carrier approved under article 8 shall have checked, for each animal, that it carries all three certificates required under the provisions of these regulations, and shall satisfy itself that:

(a) the animal has been implanted with a microchip;

(b) the number of the microchip corresponds with the number of the microchip recorded in all three certificates;

(c) the certificates relating to rabies, *Echinoccus multilocularis* and ticks show that –

(i) they are current:

(ii) they have been signed by an official veterinary surgeon in relation to rabies and by a veterinary surgeon entitled to practise veterinary medicine in the country in which the treatment is administered in relation to *Echinoccus multilocularis* and ticks;

(iii) the animal has been vaccinated against rabies, has been blood tested and has been treated against *Echinoccus multilocularis* and ticks in accordance with these regulations; and

(d) the certificate relating to the animal's place of residence in the previous six months has been signed by the person accompanying the animal.

(2) The checks shall be carried out in the place and in the manner specified in the approval:–

(a) if the checks are carried out before the animal is taken on to the means of transport, it shall be an offence for the approved carrier to bring an animal into Malta in accordance with these regulations unless it has carried out the checks in subregulation (1) hereof and is satisfied that the animal complies with the provisions of that subregulation;

(b) if the checks are carried out after an animal has landed in Malta:

(i) the approved carrier shall keep possession of the animal at the place of arrival until it has carried out the checks required under these regulations and it is satisfied that the animal has been treated in accordance with these regulations; and

(ii) if the carrier is not satisfied that the animal has been identified, vaccinated and blood tested in accordance with these regulations, it shall ensure that the animal is transferred immediately to quarantine facilities in accordance with the Importation of Dogs and Cats Regulations, 1998, or is otherwise dealt with under the provisions of those same regulations;

(c) if after carrying out the check under subregulation (1) hereof, whether the check is carried out before the animal is taken on the means of transport, during transport or after landing, the carrier is satisfied that an animal may be brought into Malta in accordance with these regulations, it shall:

(i) in the case of an animal being brought in by a foot passenger or a passenger of an aircraft, issue a certificate to the person accompanying the animal, signed and dated by a representative of the carrier, certifying that the animal complies with these regulations and attach a label to the collar of the animal or to his carrying cage if there is one, showing the date of importation and stating that such animal complies with the provisions of these regulations; or

(ii) in the case of an animal being brought in by car or other motor vehicle, give the person a sticker or hanger suitable for displaying on the windscreen and indicating that the vehicle is carrying an animal which has been checked and found to comply with the provisions of these regulations.

Duties at the port of arrival.

10. (1) A person bringing an animal into Malta in a vehicle in accordance with these regulations shall display the sticker or hanger given by the carrier in a prominent position on the windscreen until the vehicle leaves the confines of the port of arrival.

(2) A foot passenger on a ferry or a passenger on an aircraft bringing an animal into Malta in accordance with these regulations shall not remove the label attached by the carrier to the collar or carrying cage until he leaves the confines of the port or airport of arrival.

(3) A person bringing an animal into Malta in accordance with these regulations shall produce on demand by an officer of the Director or the local authority -

(a) in the case of transport by ferry, in the port area;

(b) in the case of air transport, in the airport,

all health certificates required under these regulations and, in the case of a foot passenger, the certificate of entry given by the carrier under the preceding regulation, and he shall make the animal available for checking.

Powers of officers of the Director and local customs authority.

11. An officer of the Director or local authority shall have powers to stop any vehicle displaying a windscreen sticker or hanger indicating that an animal is being carried, or any other vehicle in which he reasonably suspects that a cat or dog is being carried, or any person in possession of an animal or whom he suspects to be in possession of an animal, at any place -

(a) in the case of transport by ferry, in the port area;

(b) in the case of air transport, in the airport,

and may carry out any checks and searches which may be necessary to ensure that these regulations are being complied with.

Approvals.

12. Approval under these regulations shall be in writing, may be made subject to conditions and may be amended, suspended or revoked by notice in writing at any time, and in particular may be suspended or revoked if these regulations are not being complied with or the written procedures and contingency plans produced under Schedule 5 to these regulations have not been complied with.

Enforcement.

13. These regulations shall, except where otherwise provided, be executed and enforced by the Department of Veterinary Services assisted by the Customs Department.

Transitional provisions.

14. The provisions of these regulations requiring a blood test to be carried out at a recognised laboratory may be complied with if, before the coming into force of these regulations, the blood sample was sent to a laboratory to which the Director has written confirming that he is satisfied that it is capable of correctly carrying out any tests required by these regulations and included in a list published by the Director, and the test was carried out after the laboratory was included in the list.

Schedule 1

(Article 4)

PERMITTED ROUTES

By Sea

Valletta Harbour

By air

Any direct route from a country or part of a country in Schedule 2 to Malta International Airport.

Additional permitted routes for dogs assisting persons suffering from sensory impairment.

By air

Any route originating in Australia or New Zealand and arriving at Malta International Airport.

Note: The inclusion of a route in this Schedule does not imply that a carrier will be approved to use the route.

Schedule 2

(Articles 6 and 7)

PERMITTED COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Andorra
Austria
Belgium
Denmark
Finland
France (except Martinique, Guadeloupe, French Guyana, La Reunion, French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna, Moyette, St Pierre and Miquelon and New Caledonia)
Germany
Gibraltar
Greece
Iceland
Italy
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Monaco
Netherlands
Norway (except for Svalbard)
Portugal (including Madeira and the Azores)
San Marino
Spain (including the Canary Islands but excluding Ceuta and Melilla)
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
Vatican City
Ascension Island
Australia
Barbados
Bermuda
Cyprus
Falkland Islands
Hawaii
Japan
Montserrat
New Caledonia
New Zealand
St Helena
Singapore
Vanuatu

Schedule 3

(Article 7)

INFORMATION TO BE CONTAINED IN THE OFFICIAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE RELATING TO RABIES VACCINATION

1. The period of validity of the certificate is calculated as follows. In the case of an animal satisfying the conditions set out in article 6(3), the certificate shall become valid or on the date on which the certificate is completed. Otherwise the certificate shall become valid on the day on which it is completed, or six months after the date on which the sample was taken, whichever is the later. The certificate shall cease to be valid on the date of expiry of the current vaccination.

2. The microchip number and the location of the microchip.

3. A declaration that:

– the official veterinary surgeon has seen the record of rabies vaccination for the animal, which identifies the microchip number, indicates that the animal was vaccinated against rabies after the microchip was implanted, and (in the case of re-vaccination) indicates that the latest vaccination was carried out before the previous vaccination had expired in accordance with the recommendation in the manufacturer's data sheet and that the latest vaccination is valid;

– the official veterinary surgeon has seen a record (certified by the laboratory carrying out the test) of the result of a serological test for the animal, carried out on a blood sample taken after the first vaccination referred to above, and in a laboratory recognised by the Director of Veterinary Services for the purpose, which states that the rabies neutralisation antibody titre was equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/ml;

– the animal showed no clinical signs of rabies at the time of certification.

Schedule 4

(Article 7)

DECLARATION FOR COMPLETION BY THE PERSON BRINGING THE ANIMAL INTO MALTA

I declare that the animal(s) that I am presenting today for travel to MALTA with microchip number(s) _____ _____

has / have not been outside the qualifying countries of the Pet Travel Scheme in the six months before today's date.

Name: _____

Permanent Address: _____ Address in MALTA (if different) _____

Vehicle registration no. (if applicable) _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

It is an offence to bring an animal into Malta under the Pet Travel Scheme if the animal has been outside the qualifying countries within the previous six months

QUALIFYING COUNTRIES FOR PET TRAVEL SCHEME

Andorra	Netherlands	Barbados
Austria	Norway (b)	Bermuda
Belgium	Portugal (c)	Cyprus
Denmark	San Marino	Falkland Islands
Finland	Spain (d)	Hawaii
France (a)	Sweden	Japan
Germany	Switzerland	Monsterrat
Gibraltar	United Kingdom including Channel Islands and the Isle of Man	New Caledonia
Greece	Vatican City	New Zealand
Iceland	Ascension Island	St Helena
Italy	Australia	Singapore
Liechtenstein		Vanuatu
Luxembourg		
Monaco		

(a) For these purposes France excludes Martinique, Guadeloupe, French Guyana, La Reunion, French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna, Mayotte, St. Pierre and Miquelon and New Caledonia;
(b) For these purposes Norway excludes Svalbard;
(c) For these purposes Portugal includes Azores and Madeira;
(d) For these purposes Spain includes the Canary Islands but excludes Ceuta and Melilla.

Schedule 5

(Article 8)

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL FOR CARRIERS

1. Staff having contact with passengers who may be travelling with animals or involved in checking animals under these regulations shall be appropriately trained.

2. The carrier shall set out in writing procedures to ensure that an animal presented for travel under these regulations is:

a. directed to an appropriate checking point;
b. checked under these regulations;
c. transported in an appropriate part of the vessel, train or aircraft in appropriate conditions.

3. The carrier shall set out in writing procedures on what it will do if an animal presented for travel fails to comply with these regulations, or if an animal is discovered about which the carrier reasonably suspects that it is intended to be transported to Malta without being presented to him for checking.

4. The carrier shall set out in writing contingency plans for dealing with emergencies, including plans for vessels being diverted to another place of landing.

5. Adequate facilities for checking animals under these regulations shall be provided. They shall be adequately equipped, manned and maintained.

6. The carrier shall make arrangements for veterinary assistance to be provided where necessary.