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Scope / conditions

The import provisions apply both to commercial imports of dogs, cats and ferrets (involving a transfer of ownership) and to entries into Switzerland with a total of more than five dogs, cats and ferrets (without transfer of ownership). They do not, however, apply to [private journeys with dogs, cats and ferrets](#) with own pet animals.

(particular conditions apply to imports of animals in “confined establishments”)

The following conditions must be fulfilled before these animals can be imported:

» Rabies vaccination

- » The animals must have been vaccinated at least 21 days before they enter the country. If a booster vaccination is given while the initial vaccination is still valid, the waiting period does not apply. Initial vaccination will only be recognised if the animal was at least 12 weeks old when vaccination was performed.
- » Young animals: young animals up to the age of 12 weeks may be imported into Switzerland without being vaccinated if they are accompanying their mother and are still dependent on her, or if they travel with a confirmation from the owner that they have not been in contact with wild animals since they were born. Young animals between 12 and 16 weeks of age may also be imported with a confirmation of this kind if they have already been vaccinated against rabies but the 21-day waiting period has not yet elapsed (see “declaration for young animals” below under “Administration and information”).
- » The import and transit of puppies less than 56 days old is forbidden for animal welfare reasons unless they are travelling with their mother (or a wet-nurse).

» Identification

- » The animals must be microchipped (in compliance with ISO standard 11784 or 11785). Dogs permanently imported into Switzerland must be registered in the national dog database by a veterinarian within 10 days of entering the country.

» European pet passport

- » The animals must be accompanied by a correctly completed pet passport. Passports issued after 29 December 2014 must be in the new format.

It is forbidden to import dogs with docked ears and/or tails (see below under “More information”). The veterinary examination (no earlier than 48 hours before departure) must be confirmed in the official (TRACES) certificate.

Health certificate / TRACES



The veterinary officer in the country of origin must send an electronic TRACES notification. The cantonal authority must record the establishment of destination in Switzerland in the TRACES electronic system before the first import takes place.

The animals must be accompanied by a TRACES certificate 92/65 E1. Only the stamped and signed original will be accepted.

Animal health import permit

Special permits to import dogs or cats that do not comply with the import provisions are only issued in rare cases, e.g. if the animals cannot be vaccinated against rabies for medical reasons (stated in a veterinary certificate) (see below under "Import application").

Overarching protective measures

The [protective measures](#) in force on the day of import apply in all cases.

Owner's licence

For the keeping of wild animals a licence might be required. Applications for licences should be made to the competent Cantonal Veterinary Office. The affected species of animal are listed in the [Animal Protection Ordinance, Article 89-92 \(in French\)](#).

Overarching protective measures

Authorisation from the Cantonal Veterinary Office is required if the animals are being imported for one of the following purposes:

- » trading
- » delivery of foundling animals and abandoned animals (trading permit)
- » advertising with animals
- » animal shows
- » small animal markets
- » zoos
- » circuses
- » and/or animal experiments.

Please obtain information from the competent Cantonal Veterinary Office.



Administration and Informations

Import permit applications

[Import permit application EU \(07/23\)](#)

[EU Declaration for young animals aged up to 16 weeks](#)

Legal framework

[OITE-UE \(in French\)](#)

[OITE-Pets \(in French\)](#)

[OITE-UE-DFI \(in French\)](#)

Further info

[Veterinary regulations for dogs, cats and ferrets from the EU \(in French\)](#)

[Questions and answers on dogs with short tails or clipped ears](#)

[Information about the System TRACES \(in French\)](#)

[Customs offices and opening hours](#)

[Addresses of Cantonal Veterinary Offices \(German / French\)](#)