



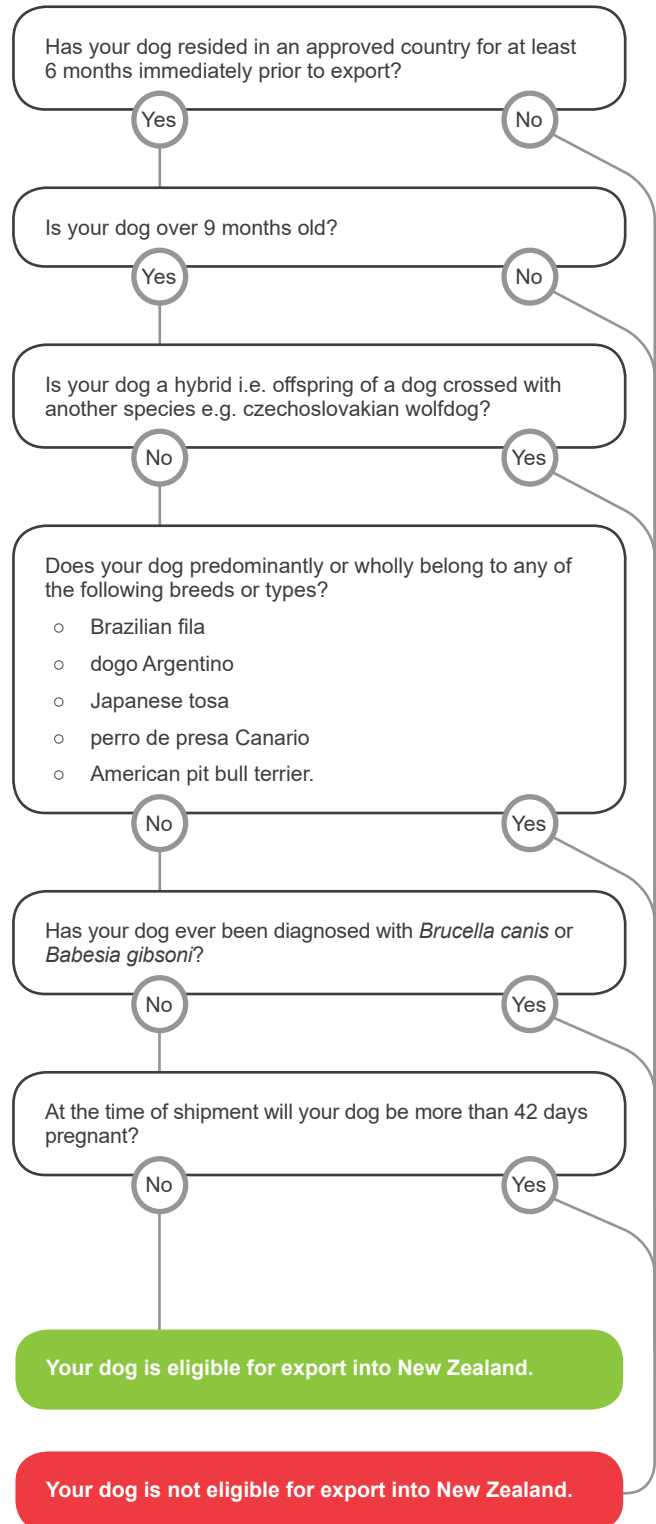
# Bringing your dog to New Zealand

## Dogs from Category 3 countries

Support document and checklist



## Eligibility questions



## Contents

<b>Eligibility questions</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>About</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Overview</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>How to use this document</b>	<b>2</b>
Eligibility	2
Timeframe	2
Documentation	2
Medication	2
Tests and treatments	2
<b>Travel Arrangements</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Documentation</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Tests and Treatments</b>	<b>6</b>
Microchip	6
Rabies Vaccination	6
Rabies Neutralising Antibody Titre Test (RNATT)	6
Routine quarantine vaccinations	7
Canine heartworm	7
Leptospirosis	7
<i>Babesia canis</i> and <i>Babesia gibsoni</i>	7
<i>Brucella canis</i>	7
External parasites	7
Internal parasites	7
Canine transmissible venereal tumour (CTVT)	7
Final veterinary examination	7
<b>In New Zealand</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>What if...</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Appendix</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Glossary</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Dog import checklist</b>	<b>11</b>

## About

There are three different categories of country you can import cats and dogs from:

- 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 dog to New Zealand from a **Category 3** (rabies absent or well-controlled) 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 in your dog.

The [Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs](#) provides the requirements (must do) for importing your dog, and the accompanying guidance document provides advice on how to meet the requirements.

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

## Overview

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

- 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 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, treatments, flights, shipping crates, 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 to 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 bringing their dog to New Zealand from a **Category 3** (rabies absent or well-controlled) country. The document has been broken down into stages to help you navigate through the process. A checklist is included to help ensure you complete each step at the correct time.

### Eligibility

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

- be a domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*).
- be 9 months of age or older on the date of travel to New Zealand.
- 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/types and their crosses are **not eligible** to come to 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 come to New Zealand, regardless of treatment.

### 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 have your dog not meet the requirements on arrival.**



### Documentation

You must provide proof that your dog meets all requirements (such as vaccination certificates, laboratory test results etc). 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
- fill out the *Official Veterinarian Declaration (OVD)* and *Model Certificate A*

**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 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. The requirements for Australia are very similar to New Zealand.

## Travel Arrangements

### Travel crate

Your dog will be transported in a crate in the air-conditioned cargo hold of the airplane that is temperature controlled and pressurised just like the cabin. The crate the dog travels in must comply with the *International Air Transport Association (IATA)* regulations.

Read the [IATA requirements](#) when choosing a crate that best meets your dog's needs.

The crate must:

- be clean, dry and free of pests
- only have inert bedding. Straw or hay bedding is not permitted.
- anything that travels with your dog will be destroyed on arrival in New Zealand (such as bedding, toys or clothing).

Contact the export country's competent authority to discuss how to get the official government seal on the crate.

### Notify Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)

You are not required to give notification of arrival of your dog. The quarantine facility will do this for you.

### Travelling with medicines

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

On the date of travel, your dog must be in its crate and must travel with the following:

- [import permit](#) (issued by the 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; 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

On arrival in New Zealand, your dog will be transported directly to the quarantine facility named on the import permit for a minimum of 10 days quarantine. The quarantine facility arranges the transport. Your dog will be inspected by a veterinarian from MPI at the beginning and end of quarantine.

Once your dog meets all the import requirements, your dog will be cleared to leave the facility.

If your dog is unwell during quarantine they may have to stay in quarantine longer.

If your dog is found to have fleas or ticks, this will extend the period of quarantine to approximately 2-3 weeks. If your dog is found to have fleas or ticks after release from quarantine or is unwell, 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.

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

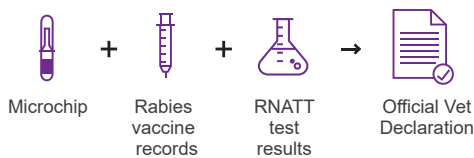
## Documentation

### Quarantine facility

Your dog must be booked in for a minimum ten-day quarantine period in New Zealand at a [MPI-approved quarantine facility](#). We recommend you enquire about the costs involved and the conditions of quarantine (e.g. feeding and visitation rights).

**Keep the booking confirmation letter for your Import permit application.**

### Official Veterinarian Declaration (OVD)



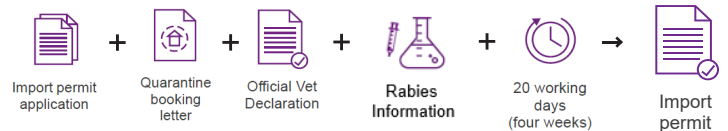
Your veterinarian must prepare the OVD then an official government veterinarian must sign and endorse the OVD. This OVD certifies the following:

- date microchip was implanted or the date the presence of a microchip was 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 Test (RNATT)
- result of the Rabies Neutralising Antibody Titre Test (RNATT)

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

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

### Import permit



Your [import permit application](#) must also include the rabies vaccination records and Rabies Neutralising Antibody Titre Test (RNATT) laboratory test report.

MPI needs at least 20 working days (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 of the following required documents and email to [animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz).

- A completed application form that applies to the category of country your dog will be exported from
- A copy of your quarantine booking confirmation letter
- OVD form
- Rabies Neutralising Antibody Titre Test (RNATT) laboratory report
- Rabies vaccination records

The standard fee of NZD \$220.74 allows 20 working days (four weeks) for the Ministry for Primary Industries to issue the permit.

## 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 dog will be travelling from. Generally, once your veterinarian has completed the testing and treatments for your dog:

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

## Declarations for Model Veterinary Certificates A and B

To get the [Model Veterinary Certificate A](#) and [Model Veterinary Certificate B](#), you must be ready to declare that your dog:

- will be more than 9 months of age at the date of shipment.
- will not be more than 42 days pregnant at the date of shipment.
- has resided continuously in an approved country for the six months (or since birth) immediately before export.

For at least **21 days prior** to shipment, your 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 dog on the flight.

## Tests and Treatments

The checklist on page 11 is set out to help you and your veterinarian plan when to test and treat your dog for export.

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

Your dog may require re-testing for any positive or inconclusive test results. This is likely to alter the timeline that your dog can arrive in. 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 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 dog to come to New Zealand
- a veterinarian authorised to complete and sign Model Veterinary Certificate A
- approved testing laboratory(ies)
- an official government veterinarian authorised to endorse *Model Veterinary Certificate B* and other export documentation.

Using a pet transporter makes preparing your dog easier.



### Microchip

Your dog must be implanted with a microchip and the microchip scanned to verify the identity of your dog before any of the 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 ISO standard specifications, you will need to check the microchip can be read in New Zealand.

**Keep the documentation. You will need proof of when the microchip was implanted or the date it was verified by the veterinarian for the OVD.**

The microchip number must be recorded on all documents.



### List of all tests and treatments

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

#### Routine quarantine vaccinations

Check what vaccinations are required with the quarantine facility that your dog will be going to. The vaccines may include:

- canine distemper
- infectious canine hepatitis
- canine parvovirus
- canine parainfluenza
- kennel cough (*Bordetella bronchiseptica*)
- canine influenza (from some countries)

#### Rabies Vaccination

Your 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 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 dog is receiving a booster vaccination then it must be administered before the previous rabies vaccination has expired 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 a primary vaccination.

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

#### Rabies Neutralising Antibody Titre Test (RNATT)

A RNATT must be performed to show your dog is adequately protected against rabies. We recommend that you wait three to four weeks after your dog has received its primary vaccination.

- A RNATT must be performed on a blood sample collected not less than 3 months and not more than 24 months prior to your dog departing for New Zealand.



- The sample must be subjected to either a (FAVN) fluorescent antibody virus neutralisation test, or a (RFFIT) rapid fluorescent focus inhibition test by a government-approved laboratory.
- The test result must be 0.5 IU/ml or more. If the result is less than this the dog will need to be re-vaccinated and the titre test repeated 3–4 weeks later.
- Your dog must remain continuously vaccinated against rabies from the date that the blood sample was taken for the RNATT.

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

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

Conduct **(ELISA) enzyme linked immunosorbent assay test**. If six months or older when flying, your 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.

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

Your 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 (MAT) microscopic agglutination test 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 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 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.

### ***Babesia canis* and *Babesia gibsoni***

Conduct **(IFAT) immunofluorescence antibody test** or **(ELISA) enzyme linked immunosorbent assay test**. 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.**

### ***Brucella canis***

Conduct **(RSAT) rapid slide agglutination test, (TAT) tube agglutination test** or **(CPAg-AGID) cytoplasmic agar gel immunodiffusion test**. 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 one:** If positive or inconclusive RSAT or TAT result then repeat test using CPAg-AGID in the 16 days prior to flying to New Zealand.
- **Option two:** If suspicious TAT result then repeat 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 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.**

### **External parasites**

Your 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 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 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 dog must be free of evidence of external parasites, clinical signs of infectious and contagious disease and be examined for canine transmissible venereal tumour (CTVT).

## In New Zealand

### Settling in

If your dog is found to be unwell after release from quarantine, 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.

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

## What if...

### My dog has a positive test result?

If your 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 dog can be shipped to New Zealand..

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

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

## Appendix

### Category 3 import permit application

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/1578-category-3-permit-to-import-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>

### IATA requirements for travel crates

<https://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live-animals/Documents/pet-container-requirements.pdf>

### Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs

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

### MPI approved quarantine facilities

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/resources/registers-and-lists/registered-quarantine-facilities/>

## 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

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# Dog import checklist

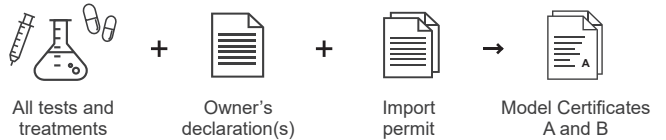
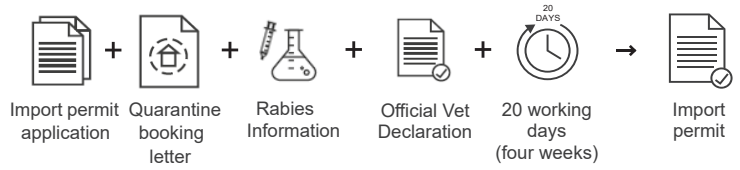
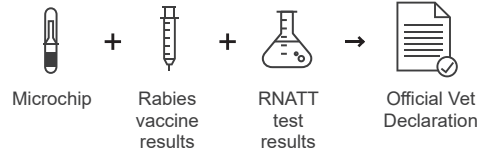
Follow the checklist to prepare your dog to come into New Zealand.

The Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) recommends you use a pet transporter to assist with the arrangements of tests, treatments, flights, shipping crates 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.**

## Things to remember:



### In the 12 months before export

OR

### In the 6–12 months before export

Ask your veterinarian to:

- Implant a microchip, or check the presence of a microchip
- Give your pet a rabies booster<sup>1</sup> vaccination
- Record the microchip number and vaccination details

Ask your veterinarian to:

- Implant a microchip, or check the presence of a microchip
- Give your pet a rabies primary<sup>2</sup> vaccination(s)
- Record the microchip number and vaccination details

Date completed:

Notes

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### At least 3 months before export

Ask your veterinarian to:

- Scan and check the microchip number
- Take a blood sample to test that your pet is protected against rabies

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### 7–8 weeks before export

Ask your veterinarian to:

- Scan and check the microchip number
- Take a blood sample for the first *Babesia gibsoni* PCR test (if using the PCR test option)
- Book your pet into an MPI-approved quarantine facility in New Zealand and get a booking confirmation form
- Get an official veterinarian declaration (OVD) completed by a veterinarian that is signed and endorsed by an official government veterinarian
- Apply for an import permit
- Organise a travel crate

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### In the 30 days before export

Ask your veterinarian to:

- Scan and check the microchip number

**Please turn over for rest of checklist.**

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Date completed:

Notes

### In the 30 days before export continued

Ask your veterinarian to take a blood sample(s) to test for:

- heartworm
- Leptospira interrogans* serovar *canicola*, or
- Start leptospirosis treatment
- Perform an examination to ensure your pet is free from visible signs of external parasites
- Give the first treatment for external parasites (fleas and ticks)
- 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 at least 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 pet 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 pet is fit and healthy to travel
- Give your pet 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
- Complete canine influenza declaration (if Model Veterinary Certificate A does not include a canine influenza clause this declaration must accompany your dog)
- Get an official seal to put on your pet's crate

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### On the day of travel

- Put the seal on the travel crate

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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### 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