INSTRUCTIONS
Importation of cats to Iceland

Import permit

Importers must apply for an import permit to The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST). Application form is on the MAST website, www.mast.is. Once MAST has received an application, the applicant will be sent a notification and a request to pay a permit fee of ISK 37,400 (which also is payment for importation checks). Upon receiving payment confirmation, an import permit will be issued and sent to the applicant along with all necessary information. The European pet passport is not sufficient for importation of cats to Iceland.

Importation costs

The importer is responsible for the payment of importation costs.
1) Permit fee (MAST, ISK 37,400)
2) Quarantine cost (contact www.einangrun.is for details).
3) Veterinary costs for importation preparation in the country of export (vaccinations, tests etc.)

Quarantine

All imported cats are required to stay in quarantine for 4 weeks. The importer must make a reservation for the animal at the quarantine facility. Currently, there are two approved quarantine stations in Iceland, Einangrunarstöðin í Reykjanesbæ (Hafnir) and Mósel (Hella). Pets are admitted during a set three-day period each month. For further information on admission dates, fees and other practical matters, contact the quarantine station. Please make your reservation well in advance as there might be a waiting list.

Airport of entry and approved arrival hours

Keflavik airport (KEF) is the only approved port of entry for pets. The permitted hours for pets at Keflavik are between 05:00 and 17:00 on the quarantine admission days. For arrival outside these specified hours an application must be sent to MAST at least one week in advance. If approved, the arrival of a pet outside of the permitted hours might result in considerable additional costs payable by the importer in relation to inspection and supervision.

Transport crate

Provide a transport crate for the cat. The crate should be big enough so that the cat can stand, lie and turn around. The crate should be of a material easy to clean and disinfect. Soft carriers are not acceptable. If the crate can not be cleaned and disinfect it will be destroyed after importation.

Minimum age for imported cats

The minimum age for imported cats is 7 months (204 days). However cats that are imported from rabies-free countries can be imported at the age of 5 months. MAST considers the following countries to be rabies-free: Australia, Great-Britain, Finland, Faroe Islands, Hawaii, Ireland, Japan, Norway (Svalbard not included), New-Zealand and Sweden

Health requirements for import

All health requirements (take note of time limits) for import must be fulfilled (details on page 2). A scanned copy of the Certificate of Health and Origin for Import of a Cat to Iceland along with rabies antibody titre test report must be sent to MAST at least 5 days before importation for approval. Original documents in addition to the import permit must accompany the cat to Iceland (in an envelope securely taped to the cage).
Non-allowed importation

It is not permitted to import pregnant or nursing queens nor cats that have undergone surgery prior to importation and require treatment of any kind.

Illegal importation

Cats that do not fulfill the conditions of importation will not be allowed to enter Iceland. They will be returned to the country of export or euthanised at the expense of the importer.

Legal background

The Importation of Animals Act no. 54/1990 and Regulation no. 935/2004 on the Importation of Pets (Companion Animals) and Dog Semen apply to importation of pets to Iceland.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Certificate of Health and Origin for Import of a Cat to Iceland

Only the form issued by MAST is valid for this purpose. Parts 1-8 of the certificate must be fully completed. The name of the importer (identified in part 1) shall correspond to the importer’s name on the import permit. At least 5 days before the date of importation a scanned copy of the certificate (all 4 pages) and the rabies antibody test report must be e-mailed to MAST (petimport@mast.is) for pre-approval. At the time of import the following documents must accompany the cat: 1) the original Certificate of Health and Origin for Import of a Cat to Iceland; 2) the original rabies antibody titre test report; 3) the import permit issued by MAST.

Microchip

The cat must have a microchip (ISO standard). The microchip must be applied before the cat is vaccinated and samples are taken for the purpose of importation.

Vaccinations

a) Rabies (vaccination and antibody titre test)
   - The cat must have been vaccinated against rabies with a killed vaccine no more than 365 days before importation. The cat must be at least 12 weeks old at the time of the first vaccination.
   - At least 120 days must pass from the date of the primary rabies vaccination before the cat is authorised for importation to Iceland (following a successful antibody titre test).
   - The primary vaccination must be given when the cat is at least 12 weeks of age.
- As a confirmation of a successful vaccination, the cat must have a rabies antibody titre blood test at least 30 days after the primary rabies vaccination (or a valid revaccination).
- The blood test must be performed at a laboratory approved by the EU and have a result of antibody levels at a minimum of 0.5 IU/ml. EU approved laboratories: (hyperlink on MAST website)
- For animals given regular booster vaccinations within the period recommended by the manufacturer, this waiting period is reduced to 30 days after the last valid booster vaccination.
- Rabies free countries: If the cat has spent at least the last 6 months prior to arrival in Iceland in a rabies-free country, then rabies vaccination and blood testing are not a requirement for import into Iceland. MAST considers the following countries to be rabies free: Australia, Faroe Islands, Finland, Hawaii, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom.

b) Feline panleukopenia
- The cat must have been vaccinated against feline panleukopenia no more than 365 days and no less than 30 days before importation to Iceland.

c) Feline rhinotracheitis
- The cat must have been vaccinated against feline rhinotracheitis no more than 365 days and no less than 30 days before importation to Iceland.

d) Calicivirus
- The cat must have been vaccinated against calicivirus no more than 365 days and no less than 30 days before importation to Iceland.

Laboratory tests (other than rabies antibody titre test) (no more than 30 days before importation)

a) Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV)
- The cat must be tested serologically for feline immunodeficiency virus with a negative result. The blood sample must be drawn no more than 30 days before importation to Iceland

b) Feline leukemia virus (FeLV)
- The cat must be tested serologically for feline leukemia virus with a negative result. The blood sample must be drawn no more than 30 days before importation to Iceland.

c) Salmonella spp.
- The cat must be tested for Salmonella spp. (fecal sample) with a negative result. The sample must be taken no more than 30 days before importation to Iceland.

Health examination and parasite treatment (no more than 10 days before importation)

a) Health examination
- Between 5-10 days before importation to Iceland the cat shall be examined by an authorised veterinarian and must not show any signs of contagious disease.

b) Tapeworm treatment
- Between 5-10 days before importation to Iceland the cat shall be treated for tapeworm (Echinococcus multilocularis and Echinococcus granulosus) with an approved veterinary medicinal product.

c) External parasite treatment
- Between 5-10 days before importation to Iceland the cat shall be treated for external parasites (including ear mites, if indicated) with an an approved veterinary medicinal product.