

Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture
Rochusstraße 1
53123 Bonn
E-mail: 324@BMVEL.Bund.de
Tel.: 0228-529-0
Fax: 0228-529-4401
Ref.: 324-3714/1

Fact sheet

concerning the importation and transit of certain domestic animals from third countries

- as of July 2003 -

I. General information

European Community law does not yet contain specific veterinary requirements concerning the import and transit of all domestic animals from third countries. In the fields that are still unregulated by Community law, the national provisions of the individual member states, therefore, apply.

The following provides an overview of the German regulations laid down in the so-called Ordinance on Disease Control in the Internal Market ^{*)} (*Binnenmarkt-Tierseuchenschutzverordnung*) concerning the import and transit of certain animals. In some cases, the Ordinance provides for exemptions from the fundamental provisions, e.g. for **travelling with animals or in the event of a change of domicile**. These exemptions vary to some extent and are, therefore, set out separately.

The list cannot take all animals into account in whose import or transit there might be interest. In some cases, e.g. in the case of specific **hoofed and cloven-hoofed animals**, the animal health status of the respective country of origin must be taken into consideration when deciding on the approvability of import or transit. There are no specific provisions applying to other animals such as **hamsters, mice, guinea pigs, rats and ornamental fish** so that merely the veterinary ban on the import and transit of diseased animals or of animals suspected of being infected must be observed. However, these animals as well must, when

^{*)} Ordinance on Intra-Community Movement, Import and Transit of Live Animals and Products (Ordinance on Disease Control in the Internal Market) as amended on 10 August 1999 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 1820), last amended by Article 5 (5) of the Act of 6 August 2002 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 3082)

they are **transported for commercial purposes**, be subjected to a **veterinary examination upon importation** at the so-called border inspection posts **at the external borders of the EU** on account of animal welfare provisions.

The *Bundesland* (federal state), where the animals are to cross the border or arrive at a port or airport, shall be responsible for issuing a **veterinary import authorization**. The supreme *Länder* authorities in charge of veterinary affairs provide pertinent information (addresses are enclosed).

II. Specific veterinary provisions:

1. DOGS AND DOMESTIC CATS

a) Principle

The competent veterinary authority of the *Land* must grant an authorization under veterinary law for the importation and transit of dogs and domestic cats.

b) Exceptions:

A veterinary authorization shall not be required for the importation and transit of dogs and domestic cats,

- (1) if and when **in holiday traffic or upon a change of domicile** not more than three dogs and domestic cats are moved that are not intended to be handed over to a third person. In case of a litter of puppies or kittens aged under three months the dam may be carried along with the entire litter.

Proof must be furnished for each animal (or the dam in case of a litter) stating that the animal had been protectively vaccinated against **rabies** and that the vaccination

aa) occurred at least 30 days and no longer than 12 months prior to border crossing or

bb) was renewed not later than 12 months after the last rabies vaccination and no longer than 12 months prior to border crossing.

The vaccination must be certified by a veterinarian.

The official seal or stamp must clearly state the official authority or the address of the veterinarian. The International Vaccination Certificate or the veterinary vaccination certificate must be issued in German or must be accompanied by an officially certified German translation. If the documents are multilingual, including German, an official certification is not required;

- (2) animals which are **moved in transit** between two locations of a neighboring third country across the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany or between two locations of the Federal Republic of Germany across the territory of a neighboring third country, provided that this movement is governed by an

agreement to facilitate cross-border traffic that has been concluded between the Federal Republic of Germany and this third country.

(3) animals used by **circus artistes**;

(4) dogs

(a) which are used as **guide dogs for blind people**, as **general duty or law enforcement dogs** serving the federal armed forces, federal border guard, customs authorities or the police force or dogs used for rescue operations or

(b) as **sledge dogs** for the purpose of participating in races, accompanied by a written confirmation of participation by the race organizer;

that are imported accompanied by a vaccination certificate as referred to in (1).

It should be noted that there are further statutory regulations on the import and the movement of certain dogs (see section III).

2. **PARROTS AND PARAKEETS**

(a) **Principle:**

The competent veterinary authority of the *Land* must grant an authorization under veterinary law for the importation and transit of parrots and parakeets.

b) **Exceptions:**

An authorization shall not be required for the importation and transit of parrots and parakeets,

which are moved **in holiday traffic or upon a change of domicile** provided not more than three animals are involved that are not intended to be handed over to third persons:

(1) the animals must be accompanied by a **veterinary health certificate**

- issued no longer than 10 days prior to entry, and
- stating that the animals have been found healthy and that no diseases communicable to parrots and parakeets have been officially notified in their flock of origin within the past 30 days;

(2) animals which are **moved in transit** between two locations of a neighboring third country across the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany or between two locations of the Federal Republic of Germany across the territory of a neighboring third country provided that this movement is governed by an agreement to facilitate cross-border traffic that has been concluded between the Federal Republic of Germany and this third country;

(3) animals used by **circus artistes**.

3. **DOMESTIC AND WILD FOWL**

Scope:

Domestic fowl: ducks, geese, hens including guinea fowls and turkeys, ratites

Wild fowl: capercaillie, black grouse game, pheasants, sandgrouse, hazel grouse, willow grouse, hybrid grouse, partridge, snow grouse, snipes including dowitchers, swans, rock partridges, bustards, wild turkeys, quails, coots, wild ducks, wild goose, wild pigeons, peacocks, doves.

a) **Principle:**

The competent veterinary authority of the *Land* must authorize the importation and transit of domestic and wild fowl under veterinary law.

b) **Exceptions:**

The importation and transit of **carrier pigeons** imported in special containers for the purpose of being released is not subject to authorization.

4. **HARES AND DOMESTIC RABBITS**

a) **Principle:**

The competent veterinary authority of the *Land* must authorize the importation and transit of hares and domestic rabbits under veterinary law.

b) **Exceptions:**

- (1) domestic rabbits (max. three) which are moved **in holiday traffic or upon a change of domicile** and which are not intended to be handed over to a third person,
- (2) animals which are **moved in transit** between two locations of a neighboring third country across the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany or between two locations of the Federal Republic of Germany across the territory of a neighboring third country provided that this movement is governed by an agreement to facilitate cross-border traffic that has been concluded between the Federal Republic of Germany and this third country;
- (3) animals used by **circus artistes**.

5. **MONKEYS**

The competent veterinary authority of the *Land* must authorize the importation and transit of monkeys under veterinary law.

III. Restrictions on the movement or the import of dangerous dogs

The law relating to restrictions on the movement or the import of dangerous dogs to the country (*Gesetz zur Beschränkung des Verbringens oder der Einfuhr gefährlicher Hunde*), which entered into force on 21 April 2001, stipulates that dogs of the breeds known as Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, and Bull Terrier, as well as crosses between the named breeds or with other breeds must not be moved or imported to the country. Neither must dogs of other breeds, and the crosses between these breeds or with other breeds, that are classified as potentially dangerous according to the regulations of the *Land* in which the dog is to be permanently kept be imported or moved from a foreign country to this country. Which dog breeds are exactly affected by restrictions is governed by the legislation of the relevant country of destination and information should be obtained in advance from the competent ministry (see attachment 1).

In order to prevent excessive hardships – e.g. with regard to international travel – resulting from the ban on import and movement, exceptions from the legal ban on import have been defined in the Ordinance on Exceptions from the Ban on Movement and Import of Dangerous Dogs to the Country (*Verordnung über Ausnahmen zum Verbringungs- und Einfuhrverbot von gefährlichen Hunden in das Inland*). The Ordinance contains necessary and suitable exemptions and regulates the procedures to be observed in relation to the dogs' identification.

This Ordinance provides for the following exemptions from the ban on movement and import:






- general duty and law enforcement dogs, guide dogs for the blind, assistance dogs for handicapped people as well as dogs used for disaster control and rescue operations;
- dogs accompanying their owners for up to four weeks in Germany (e.g. in the scope of international travel);
- dangerous dogs belonging to the population currently existing in Germany that were brought to a foreign country and are then to be re-imported;
- dangerous dogs that are being kept in a country for legitimate reasons.






The owner is obliged to prove the dog's identity by providing the relevant evidence. The identification is carried out on the basis of official documents or certificates. In case of violations of the law relating to restrictions on the movement or the import of dangerous dogs or of the Ordinance, the dog can be seized or put up or order can be given to send the dog directly back to its place of origin.

IV. In accordance with the legal requirements of the European Communities and of the Federal Republic of Germany, the **Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** must also be observed, as appropriate, when importing domestic animals.

For questions on this matter please contact the responsible German authority: Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Konstantinstraße 110, 53179 Bonn, Tel.: (0228) 8491-0, Fax: (0228) 8491-200.

List of addresses of the authorities of the *Länder* responsible for veterinary matters:

		 Telefon-Nr.  Telefax-Nr.
Ministerium für Ernährung und Ländlichen Raum Baden-Württemberg	<i>Postanschrift:</i> Postfach 103 444 70029 Stuttgart <i>Dienstgebäude:</i> Kernerplatz 10 70182 Stuttgart	 (0711) 126-0  (0711) 126-2411 E-mail: Poststelle@mlr.bwl.de
Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt, Gesundheit und Verbraucherschutz	<i>Postanschrift:</i> Postfach 81 01 40 81901 München <i>Dienstgebäude:</i> Schellingstraße 155 80797 München	 (089) 2170-04  (089) 2170-2834 E-Mail: Tierseuchen@stmgev.bayern.de
Senatsverwaltung für Gesundheit, Soziales und Verbraucherschutz Abt. II	Oranienstr. 106 10969 Berlin	 (030) 9028-0  (030) 9028-2060 E-Mail: Gesundheit@sengsv.verwalt-berlin.de
Ministerium für Landwirtschaft, Umweltschutz und Raumordnung des Landes Brandenburg	<i>Postanschrift:</i> Postfach 60 11 50 14411 Potsdam <i>Dienstgebäude:</i> Spornstraße 14467 Potsdam	 (0331) 8667-0  (0331) 866-7-4444 E-Mail: vetwesenbb@mlur.brandenburg.de
Freie Hansestadt Bremen Senator für Arbeit, Frauen, Gesundheit, Jugend und Soziales - Veterinärwesen, Lebensmittelsicherheit und Pflanzenschutz -	Bahnhofsplatz 29 28195 Bremen	 (0421) 361-0  (0421) 361-4808 E-Mail: Helmut.Lindhorst@gesundheit.bremen.de
Behörde für Umwelt und Gesundheit der Freien und Hansestadt Hamburg Amt für Gesundheit - Abt. Verbraucherschutz Fachabteilung Lebensmittelsicherheit und Veterinärwesen	Lagerstraße 36 20357 Hamburg	 (040) 428 41-4015  (040) 428 41-4040 E-Mail: Peter.Brehm@bug.hamburg.de
Hessisches Ministerium für Umwelt, ländlichen Raum und Verbraucherschutz – Abteilung V -	<i>Postanschrift:</i> Postfach 3109 65021 Wiesbaden <i>Dienstgebäude:</i> Hölderlinstraße 1 - 3 65187 Wiesbaden	 (0611) 817-0 (0611) 817-3723 (Mo - Do 13.30 – 15.30 h Fr. 10.00 - 12.00 h)  (0611) 44789-771 E-Mail: vetabt@hmulv.hessen.de
Ministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft, Forsten und Fischerei Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	<i>Postanschrift:</i> 19048 Schwerin <i>Dienstgebäude:</i> Paulshöher Weg 1 19061 Schwerin	 (0385) 588-0  (0385) 588-6598 E-Mail: c.ploigt@lm.mvnet.de

		 Telefon-Nr.  Telefax-Nr.
Niedersächsisches Ministerium für den ländlichen Raum, Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz	<i>Postanschrift:</i> Postfach 243 30002 Hannover <i>Dienstgebäude:</i> Calenberger Straße 2 30169 Hannover	 (0511) 120-0  (0511) 120-2378 E-Mail: poststelle@ml.niedersachsen.de
Ministerium für Umwelt und Naturschutz, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen	<i>Postanschrift:</i> 40190 Düsseldorf <i>Dienstgebäude:</i> Schwannstraße 3 40476 Düsseldorf	 (0211) 4566-0  (0211) 4566-432 E-Mail: Poststelle@munlv.nrw.de
Ministerium für Umwelt und Forsten des Landes Rheinland-Pfalz Abt. Veterinärwesen	<i>Postanschrift:</i> Postfach 31 60 55021 Mainz <i>Dienstgebäude:</i> Kaiser-Friedrich-Str. 1 55116 Mainz	 (06131) 16-0  (06131) 16-4608 E-Mail: RP-Hygiene@muf.rlp.de
Ministerium für Frauen, Arbeit, Gesundheit und Soziales	<i>Postanschrift:</i> Postfach 10 24 53 66024 Saarbrücken <i>Dienstgebäude:</i> Franz-Josef-Röder-Str. 23 66119 Saarbrücken	 (0681) 501-1  (0681) 501-3239 E-Mail: w.vester@soziales.saarland.de
Sächsisches Staatsministerium für Soziales	Albertstr. 10 01097 Dresden	 (0351) 564-0  (0351) 564-5770 E-Mail: grizan@sms.sachsen.de
Ministerium für Landwirtschaft und Umwelt des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt – Abt. 6: Ländlicher Raum, Veterinärangelegenheiten, Verbraucherschutz –	<i>Postanschrift:</i> Postfach 37 60 39012 Magdeburg <i>Dienstgebäude:</i> Olvenstedter Straße 4 39108 Magdeburg	 (0391) 567-01  (0391) 567-1924 E-Mail: Petzer@MIN.ML.LSA-NET.de
Ministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit und Verbraucherschutz des Landes Schleswig-Holstein	<i>Postanschrift:</i> Postfach 11 21 24100 Kiel <i>Dienstgebäude:</i> Adolf-Westphal-Str. 4 24143 Kiel	 (0431) 988-0  (0431) 988-5246 E-Mail: martin.heilemann@mlr.landsh.de
Thüringer Ministerium für Soziales, Familie und Gesundheit	<i>Postanschrift:</i> Postfach 612 99012 Erfurt <i>Dienstgebäude:</i> Werner-Seelenbinder-Str. 6 99096 Erfurt	 (0361) 37-900  (0361) 37-98850 E-Mail: LeonhardtM@tmsfg.thueringen.de

Tierärztliche Impfbescheinigung¹⁾

für das vorübergehende innergemeinschaftliche Verbringen, für die vorübergehende Einfuhr und die Durchfuhr im Reiseverkehr oder das innergemeinschaftliche Verbringen und die Einfuhr bei der Wohnsitzverlegung von Hunden und Hauskatzen nach (durch) Deutschland

Veterinary vaccination certificate¹⁾

for the temporary intra-Community movement, for the temporary importation and the transit in tourist traffic or the intra-Community movement and importation in the case of a transfer of residence of dogs and domestic cats into (through) Germany

Herkunftsland:
Country of origin:

Ausstellender Tierarzt (Name und Anschrift):
Issuing veterinarian (name and address):

.....
.....

**I. Herkunft des Tieres:
Origin of animal:**

Name und Anschrift des Halters des Tieres:
Name and address of the keeper:

.....
.....

Name und Anschrift des Verfügungsberechtigten:²⁾
Name and address of the person authorized to dispose:²⁾

.....
.....

II. Angaben zur Identifizierung der Tiere:
Identification of animals:

Hund (Katze), Geschlecht: Rasse:
Dog (cat), sex Breed:

Alter: Farbe:
Age: Colour:

Art und Zeichnung des Felles:
Type and pattern of coat:

.....
.....

Sonstige Kennzeichen oder Beschreibung:
Other characteristics or description:

.....
.....

III. Der Unterzeichnete bescheinigt folgendes:
The undersigned certifies that:

Das/Die Tier(e) - im Falle eines Wurfes das Muttertier - ist/sind - zuletzt²⁾ - am
.....³⁾ mit einem zugelassenen Impfstoff gegen Tollwut
schutzgeimpft worden.

*The animal(s) - in the case of a litter the dam - has/have been vaccinated - last
vaccination²⁾ - on³⁾ with an approved vaccine against rabies.*

- ²⁾³⁾ Eine vorausgegangene Schutzimpfung der Tiere gegen Tollwut liegt nicht
länger als 12 Monate zurück.

- ²⁾³⁾ *A preceding vaccination of the animals against rabies was carried out no
more than 12 months ago.*

Art des Impfstoffs:
Type of vaccine:

Bezeichnung des Impfstoffes:
Nature of vaccine:

Chargen-Nr.:
Batch No.:

Hersteller:
Manufacturer:

**IV. Diese Bescheinigung ist, vom Tage der letzten Tollwut-Schutzimpfung an gerechnet, 12 Monate gültig.³⁾
*This certificate is valid for 12 months from the date of the last vaccination against rabies.³⁾***

Ausgefertigt in am
Done at (Ort/place) on (Datum/date)

Tierarzt:
Veterinary officer:

(Siegel oder Stempel)⁴⁾
(Seal or stamp)⁴⁾

.....
(Unterschrift/signature)⁴⁾

-
- 1) Die Bescheinigung ist nur anwendbar für höchstens drei nicht zur Abgabe an Dritte bestimmte Tiere, im Falle von Hunde- oder Hauskatzenwürfen auf das Muttertier mit dem gesamten Wurf.
The certificate is only applicable to no more than three animals not destined to be delivered to third persons, in the case of litters of dogs or domestic cats to the dam with the entire litter.
 - 2) Streichen, wenn nicht zutreffend.
Delete as applicable.
 - 3) Die Einfuhr ist nur zulässig, wenn die letzte Tollwut-Schutzimpfung vor mindestens 30 Tagen und längstens 12 Monaten erfolgt ist. Die 30-Tage-Frist gilt nicht, wenn es sich um eine im Abstand von längstens 12 Monaten nach der vorausgegangenen Schutzimpfung durchgeführte Wiederholungsimpfung handelt.
Importation is only permitted if the last vaccination against rabies has taken place at least 30 days ago and no more than 12 months ago. The 30-day-period does not apply if the vaccination is a revaccination carried out at an interval of no more than 12 months after the preceding vaccination.
 - 4) Unterschrift und Stempel müssen sich farblich von der Druckfarbe der Bescheinigung unterscheiden.
Signature and stamp must be different from the colour of printing.