

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

THE ANIMALS AND BIRDS ACT (CHAP.7)

**VETERINARY CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF  
ANIMALS – SMALL MAMMALS (2/2)**

I **COUNTRY OF EXPORT**

Any country.

II **PURPOSE**

As personal pets or for commercial purposes.

III **IMPORT LICENCE**

Each consignment of animals shall be accompanied by a valid Import Licence issued by the National Parks Board/Animal & Veterinary Service (NParks/AVS).

IV **VETERINARY CERTIFICATION**

Each consignment of animals shall be accompanied by a veterinary health certificate dated within seven (7) days prior to the date of export and signed by a government veterinary authority or a registered veterinarian of the country of export, giving details of the consignment (consignor, consignee, quantity, type, breed, sex and colour, markings or other points of identification of each animal and the name of the breeding facility if applicable) and certifying to the effect that:

**(in the case of commercial consignments)**

- (i) the animals are captive bred and do not originate from the wild,
- (ii) the animals have been kept continuously since birth or for the past six (6) months immediately prior to export in an NParks/AVS approved breeding facility which is in a country which has been free from rabies;

**OR**

- the animals have been kept continuously since birth or for the past twelve (12) months immediately prior to export, in a NParks/AVS approved breeding facility where no case of rabies has been reported in the past twelve (12) months prior to export,
- (iii) the animals have been kept continuously since birth or for the past six (6) months immediately prior to export in an NParks/AVS approved breeding facility which has been free from evidence of the following diseases and disease agents for the past twelve (12) months:
  - (a) Lymphocytic choriomeningitis, Hanta virus infection, Sendai virus, tularemia and yersiniosis for RODENTS;
  - (b) Myxomatosis, tularaemia, rabbit haemorrhagic disease, and yersiniosis for RABBITS.
- (iv) no case of monkeypox has occurred in the facility in the preceding six (6) months prior to export;
- (v) the animals have not been inoculated with any micro-organisms nor been in contact with animals which have been inoculated with any micro-organisms,
- (vi) the animals have been treated for external parasites (state active ingredient) not less than four (4) days and not more than fourteen (14) days prior to export,
- (vii) the animals are healthy and free from any clinical sign of infectious or contagious disease and external parasites at the time of export and deem fit to travel.

**(in the case of personal pets)**

- (i) the animals have been kept as pets continuously since birth or for the past six (6) months immediately prior to export;
  - (ii) the animals have been treated for external parasites (state active ingredient) not less than four (4) days and not more than fourteen (14) days prior to export,
  - (iii) the animals are healthy and free from any clinical sign of infectious or contagious disease, including rabies, monkeypox, and
    - (a) Lymphocytic choriomeningitis, Hanta virus infection, Sendai virus, tularaemia and yersiniosis for RODENTS;
    - (b) Myxomatosis, tularaemia, rabbit haemorrhagic disease, and yersiniosis for RABBITS.
- as well as external parasites at the time of export and deem fit to travel.

V **DECLARATION FROM MASTER/CAPTAIN OF SHIP/AIRCRAFT**

Not required.

- VI QUARANTINE**  
The animals shall be subject to two (2) weeks quarantine at an NParks/AVS approved premises. NParks/AVS officers may inspect the animals at the quarantine premises during the quarantine period. Any outbreak of disease or mortality during the quarantine period must be reported to Industry and Biosecurity Management Group immediately.
- VII APPLICATION FOR IMPORT LICENCE**  
The owner or his agent must apply for the import licence by submitting an online application through GoBusiness Licensing Portal (<https://www.gobusiness.gov.sg/licences>) prior to the arrival of animals.
- VIII NOTIFICATION OF ARRIVAL**  
The importer or agent must make an appointment for the inspection by submitting an online booking request via <https://avs-eservices.nparks.gov.sg/eservices/>. Please ensure your NParks/AVS Import licence no. & flight details are ready and fill in the required information on your application. Inspections without any prior appointment will be charged \$80.00/hour or part thereof during office hours.
- IX VETERINARY INSPECTION**  
On arrival at the port of disembarkation in Singapore, the animals and documents (Import Licence and Veterinary Health Certificate) shall be examined by an authorised Veterinary Officer. If the animals are found to be healthy and documents are in order, the animals shall be allowed into Singapore. The owner must confirm the address where the animals will be quarantined on the import Licence.
- X PENALTY**  
All imports must comply fully with the conditions of the Import Licence and Veterinary Conditions, unless prior written approval has been obtained from NParks/AVS. Any consignment of animals or related products that do not meet the requirements may be detained, returned to the country of export or destroyed at the discretion of the Director-General, Animal Health and Welfare. In addition, the importer shall be guilty of an offence under the Animals and Birds Act Section 8(1) and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.
- XI FEES**
- |      |   |                                  |
|------|---|----------------------------------|
| (i)  | Import Licence  | )                                |
| (ii) | Accommodation at Changi Animal & Plant Quarantine Unit (CAPQ) | ) see Fee Schedule: Attachment-2 |
- XII OTHER REQUIREMENTS**
- (i) Animals for commercial import must be derived from approved breeding facilities. Approval of the facility must be sought before applying for an import licence by supplying technical information of the breeding facility eg. name, address and location of facility, type and population of animals, diseases reported in the past year, results of serological surveys conducted on animals in the facility, contingency plans to handle disease outbreaks, sanitation and hygiene practices, management practice and vaccination regime.
  - (ii) Animals must be consigned to Singapore in a secure container that meets the relevant container requirements specified in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations.
  - (iii) Only NParks/AVS approved establishments can import animals for commercial purposes and the number of animals allowed in each consignment would be in accordance to the availability of quarantine space.
  - (iv) Only the following small mammals may be approved for sale in pet shops: rabbits, mice, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs and chinchillas.
  - (v) Import of animals as personal effects is restricted to only 5 animals regardless of species.
  - (vi) Importation of animals for consumption is not allowed.
  - (vii) Any expenditure incurred in the process of importation shall be borne by the importer.
  - (viii) If the animal dies or is destroyed while under the custody of NParks/AVS, NParks/AVS will not be liable for any compensation.
  - (ix) Regulations and fees are subject to change without notice notwithstanding the issuance of a Licence by NParks/AVS.
  - (x) Small mammals mean only rabbits, hares, mice, rats, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs and chinchillas.

**Please note:**

Section 72 of the Animals and Birds Act states that:

*"(1) Any action taken under the provisions of this Act or of any rule, order or direction made or given thereunder in respect of any animal, bird, carcass, article, building or conveyance shall be at the risk of the owner thereof.*

*(2) No liability shall attach to the Board or to any officer thereof in respect of any expense, loss, damage or delay arising in or from the lawful exercise of the powers under this Act.*

Section 78 of the Animals and Birds Act states that:

*"No suit or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Board, the Director-General or any authorised officer, police officer, officer of customs or any other person acting under the direction of the Board or Director-General for anything which is in good faith done in the execution or purported execution of this Act."*

**APPLICATION/ENQUIRIES:**

Animal & Veterinary Service (AVS)

Raffles Building

Singapore Botanic Gardens

1 Cluny Road

Singapore 259569

<https://www.nparks.gov.sg/feedback-and-enquiry>

29 November 2022