

**Department of the Army
Japan District Veterinary Command
Camp Zama, Japan
APO AP 96343-5005**

Pet Requirements for Entrance into Japan

1. Responsibilities: Owners are responsible for the shipment of pets arriving, departing and within Japan. Owners are responsible for all matters associated with travel arrangements and shipping requirements for their pets.

2. Japanese Animal Quarantine Service Regulations require that all animals entering Japan be examined to determine if they are free from communicable diseases. Animals found to be free from communicable diseases may be released to the owner's custody, subject to the restrictions discussed below:

3. Requirements for Entry:

a. **RABIES CERTIFICATE:** (2 copies and original) A [rabies vaccination certificate](#) must accompany the animal during transit. The rabies vaccination must be at least 30 days old, and within the effective period of the vaccine at the time of entry into Japan.

To clarify - the rabies shot must be at least 31 days old and less than 1 year old (1 year vaccine) or 3 years old (3 year vaccines) upon arrival.

Bringing puppies less than 12 weeks old is highly discouraged. The puppy will immediately be put on quarantine and when it reaches 90 days of age, the puppy will be given a rabies a vaccination and will be kept at the quarantine facility for 45 more days.

b. **HEALTH CERTIFICATE:** (2 copies and original) A [health certificate](#) must accompany the animal during transit. The veterinarian, who examines your pet, issues this. The health certificate must be dated within 10 days preceding the animal's arrival into Japan. (To clarify - the certificate is only good for 10 days, so plan accordingly.)

NOTE: Placing the above certificates in a zip lock plastic bag and taping it securely on top of the pet's cage seems to work best. These forms must accompany the animal during transit. Ensure these forms are completely filled out and

it is suggested that you carry in your possession one copy of each certificate.

IMPORTANT: If the rabies and/or health certificate were obtained through a civilian veterinarian, they must be endorsed by a field officer, U.S. Federal (not state) Department of Agriculture, (USDA). The USDA veterinarian/officer must stamp and sign both the rabies certificate and the health certificate and place his USDA stamp on each copy. The signature without the stamp is invalid for entry into Japan (NOTE: A state department of agriculture stamp is not recognized by the Government of Japan, (GOJ) authorities.)

Owners are encouraged to use military veterinarians.

Military veterinarians (NAF Veterinarians or Army Veterinarians) are recognized by the Government of Japan as USDA representatives; therefore, the stamp is not necessary. Most states have only one federal USDA office, so obtain the rabies vaccination and health certificate through a military veterinarian if possible.

NOTE: The Embassy in Rome, Santa Domingo, Miami (APO) and Manila do not have the required stamp, therefore all pets coming from these areas can expect very lengthy quarantine if the certificates were issued by a civilian Veterinarian. Pets coming from the Philippines must be revaccinated if a civilian veterinarian administered the rabies shot.

c. **Official Travel Orders:** Pet owners must submit Official Travel Orders to the Animal Quarantine Service to verify SOFA status.

d. **380 EJ Form "Customs Free Import or Export of Cargo or Customs Declaration of Personal Property":** This form is needed when your pet(s) enters Japan through a civilian airport separately as freight and on a different flight than you. You can only use this form within 6 months of PCSing to Japan. After 6 months you may be required to pay any custom's duties associated with bringing a pet into country. You may obtain the form by having your sponsor take a copy of your orders to the transportation office at your gaining command. The base transportation officer will sign the appropriate box after verifying your orders.

e. **MDJ Form 270:** (2 copies) All SOFA status personnel entering Japan with a pet are required to complete a MDJ 270. The MDJ 270 allows your pet to be released to you for

transportation to your US Military Quarantine Facility. Please download the form and fill it out before arrival. http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/MDJ_270.pdf You are required to submit the form to your US Military Veterinary Treatment Facility within 72 hours of entry into Japan.

f. Pet owners or their authorized representatives should be prepared to provide the following information.

1) Military mailing address

2) Current phone number to be reached. Ask your sponsor for a duty number.

3) Command information

4. All incoming animals must enter Japan through officially designated ports.

1) By sea the ports are: Keihin, Nagoya, Osaka, Kobe, Kanmon, and Naha.

2) By air they are: New Tokyo (Narita), Tokyo (Haneda), Nagoya, Osaka, Fukuoka, Kagoshima, and Naha.

3) For Military AMC flights, the ports of entry are Kadena and Yokota Air base.

5. All initial inspections of pets are done by members of the Japanese Animal Quarantine Services, in accordance with existing Japanese laws and directives, or by U.S. military (if entering through Kadena or Yokota.). Strict compliance and full cooperation by pet owners are essential.

6. Pets must be quarantined for a period of 14 days to 180 days upon entry into Japan. Japanese authorities have granted U.S. Forces personnel the privilege of having their pet(s) remain in the custody of the owner for a 14 days "home quarantine" if:

a. The owner is stationed in an area where the pet(s) can be presented to a U.S. Forces Veterinarian (USFV) for a final physical examination.

b. The pet(s) meets all the requirements for importation to Japan.

7. Common problems associated with importing pets:

a. The most common problem is the health certificate and/or rabies certificate completed by a civilian veterinarian does not have the raised USDA seal. Failure to comply will result in a mandatory quarantine period of 30 to 180 days.

b. It is mandatory that your military veterinarians use the DD2208 (rabies certificate) and DD2209 (health certificate). Failure to comply will result in a mandatory quarantine period of 30 to 180 days.

8. Quarantine Facilities:

a. The pet owner is responsible for all expenses associated with all quarantine procedures, to include the transportation procurement actions to and from any quarantine inspection at Japanese Animal Quarantine Service or facilities of the U.S. Armed Forces.

CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS FOR QUARANTINE FACILITY

AREA	RESPONSIBLE QUARANTINE FACILITY	TEL. NO. (DSN)	COST PER DAY
Yokosuka	Yokosuka NB (Boarding Kennel)	243-4530	Cat-12.50 Dog*- 12.50-18.50
Atsugi Camp Zama	Camp Zama (Boarding Kennel)	263-5915	Cat-10.00 Dog-15.00 **
Iwakuni	Iwakuni MCAS (VTF)	253-3588	Cat-10.00 Dog-15.00
Misawa	Misawa AFB (VTF)	226-2773	Cat-10.00 Dog-10.00
Sasebo	Sasebo NB (Boarding Kennel)	226-2773	Cat-10.00 Dog-10.00
Yokota	Yokota AFB (Boarding Kennel)	225-8906	Cat-10.00 Dog-12.00
Okinawa	Kadena AB (Boarding Kennel)	632-4062	Cat-7.50 Dog-10.00

*Additional Charges may apply.

**These prices are current as of 26 Sept 2003. All prices are subject to change. Please contact the facility for exact prices.

***Some facilities offer group rates and extended boarding discounts. Please contact the facility for these applied rates.

9. Pet quarantine reimbursement

a. Service members:

1) Mandatory pet quarantine fees incurred by U.S. service members in connection with the mandatory quarantine of a household pet are reimbursable not to exceed \$550 per PCS move for pets in, or entering into, quarantine on and after 28 DEC 2001. (Ref. JFTR, par. U5805.)

2) Transportation cost, medical care, grooming, and similar fees for services that are part of routine pet care associated with a PCS are not reimbursable. Similarly, boarding cost incurred after the final release dates from quarantine are not reimbursable. For example: If on the day the attending veterinarian certifies the pet has completed the quarantine period and the service member can not take possession of the pet for any reason (i.e., the service member is TDY or pets are not allowed in billeting), the reimbursable amount is set on that date. All subsequent boarding cost is not reimbursable.

3) Congress limits this benefit to "members of the uniformed services." Unfortunately, cost incurred by Department of the Army civilian employees and contractors are not reimbursable.

4) Documents recommended to submit to finance include:

1. Boarding receipt for mandatory quarantine dates
2. MDJ Form 270 with entry date and final release date from quarantine

b. DOD civilian employees

1) Pet quarantine fees and transportation charges incurred in connection with a PCS are included in the Miscellaneous Expense Allowance (MEA) applicable fixed amount authorized in JTR, par. C9004-A. If MEA expenses are itemized, reimbursement for those expenses, including pet quarantine fees and transportation charges, is allowed up to the applicable maximum amount authorized in JTR, par. C9004-B.

10. Upon arrival at their assigned duty station:

a. Owners must contact the US Army Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) located at the installation (see below) within 72 hours of arrival. The final examination must be conducted within 72 hours from the end of the quarantine period.

Location of U.S. Forces Veterinary Treatment Facilities, (VTF)

AREA	RESPONSIBLE VTF	DSN TEL. NO.
Yokosuka	Yokosuka VTF	242-6820
Atsugi Camp Zama	Zama VTF	263-3875
Iwakuni	Iwakuni VTF	253-4622
Misawa	Misawa VTF	226-4502
Sasebo	Sasebo VTF	252-3449
Yokota	Yokota VTF	225-2143
Okinawa	Okinawa VTF	634-2140

b. The pet owner is responsible for transporting the animal to and from the VTF and for any expenses incurred.

c. SPECIAL NOTE: The practice of allowing pets to remain in the custody of their owners during the 14 day "home quarantine" is a privilege and is not obligatory upon Japanese authorities. Therefore, it is imperative that U.S. Forces pet owners cooperate and comply fully with Japanese Quarantine Laws and military regulations pertaining to the requirements for examining or otherwise processing animals for entry into or exit from Japan. Failure to present the animal to a VTF for the final physical examination is a serious violation of the Japanese law and may result in a fine or other punishment. Failure to comply with the requirements for final physical examination will result in a report of the incident being forwarded to the individual's command.

Additional information

OVERVIEW - The Japan District Veterinary Command provides medical care for pets of authorized personnel. The primary missions of the VTF are food inspection and food quality assurance, public health concerns, veterinary care for military working dogs and privately owned pets.

AUTHORIZATION FOR SERVICES - Veterinary services are authorized for animals owned by persons with DOD medical

care privileges. A valid SOFA-status identification card is required before services are rendered. Regulations also mandate that all pets are currently microchipped and vaccinated annually against rabies before services are rendered. This policy will be enforced.

DISCLAIMER - The Japan District Veterinary Command is authorized to provide care to your privately owned pet(s) as time, space, and personnel resources permit. Care for privately owned animals is just one of many missions we perform; therefore, we cannot guarantee that veterinary services will always be available. You must be prepared to seek veterinary care from local civilian veterinarians if necessary. You may obtain a written list of local veterinary clinics from the VTF. We recommend you obtain this list and become familiar with clinics in your area before the need arises.

For more information, please visit our web site at <http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/zama/services.htm>