



Reference: EU dogs and cats updated 2023

## **Commercial export of dogs and cats to the EU and U.K**

This advisory is based on Commission implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403 and Regulation (EU) 2016/429 that replace EU Directive 92/65/EEC and EU Commission Decision 2019/294/EU.

Please note that the model health certificates for the EU and Great Britain are different as of 1 January 2021. Great Britain, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man use the model veterinary certificate for Great Britain (GBHC157X v3.2 October 2022). Northern Ireland uses the EU model health certificate as it remains part of the EU Pet Travel Scheme.

If your situation differs, in any way, from the proposed process, or if you have information from the veterinary authority of the importing country that differs from the process described below, please contact your local state veterinarian to discuss the matter.

Exporters are advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in South Africa, in advance of each consignment.

Commercial export of dogs and cats includes pet dogs and cats that are NOT travelling with an owner/authorised natural person on or within 5 days to the EU destination and the U.K. For animals that ARE travelling with an owner /authorised natural person on or within 5 days to the EU destination and the UK, please refer to the procedure for non-commercial exports of dogs and cats.

### Procedure

**A. For animals travelling for the first time**, the process will take at least 4 months.

- i. The pet/s must come from a holding (place where the pet resides) that is registered by Veterinary Services Western Cape.
- ii. The pet MUST have a transponder (microchip) implanted and /or read by a veterinarian.
- iii. The pet must have a rabies vaccination administered by a registered veterinarian. A rabies vaccination is only considered valid if it was administered in an animal that is older than 12 weeks of age and if it was administered after the implantation or reading of the transponder
- iv. After the rabies vaccination, the client must wait a MINIMUM of 30 days before taking their pet to a private veterinarian for a rabies neutralising antibody titre (RNAT) blood test.

- v. The client must wait a MINIMUM of 90 days (3 months) after the date the blood was drawn for the test before a health certificate can be completed by a private veterinarian, however the issuing of the health certificate is dependent on the results of the RNAT test being above the limit set by the EU (>0.5 IU/ml). The RNAT must be done at an EU/UK approved laboratory. The list of approved laboratories can be found at: [https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/movement-pets/approved-rabies-serology-laboratories\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/movement-pets/approved-rabies-serology-laboratories_en) . The blood test (RNAT test) will continue to be valid as long as your pet's rabies vaccinations are kept up to date according to the manufacturer's instructions.

**Registration of holdings from which pets must come from**

- i. The owner of the holding should make contact with the local state veterinary office in the area the holding is.
- ii. The procedure for registration is dependent on the following:
  - a. the disease status of the area in which the holding is located
  - b. the number of animals that are to be sent and the
  - c. frequency that animals are to be sent from that holding
  - d. Risk analysis conducted by the state veterinarian
- iii. Where the procedure determined by the state veterinarian of the area has dictated that ZA registration of the holding is necessary, the client should follow the procedure for obtaining a ZA registration number (SOP 16).

Certificate application cost can be found on the departmental tariff list (Cost per application in 2023 is R200 each). The cost of the certificate application is payable on appointment.

Should an inspection of the establishment be required: This can be done at a cost charged according to the tariff list (Costs are R480/per hour (2023) for an inspection / Advisory and R 6 per km (2023) travelled) the duration would be at least one hour.

- vi. Within 48hrs of dispatch, the pet must see a private veterinarian for a health check (and the pet must receive *Echinococcus multilocularis* treatment not more than 120hrs and not less than 24hrs before the time of the scheduled entry of the dogs into Great Britain.

The treatment against infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* must be administered by a veterinarian within a period commencing not more than 48 hours and ending not less than 24 hours prior to the time of dispatch to Malta, Finland, Ireland and Northern Ireland.

**A private veterinarian must complete the Western Cape specific health certificate.**

- vii. Cleaning and disinfection of crates must be carried out prior to loading with an approved surface disinfectant either at a private veterinary practice **or** at the premises of one of the listed, commercial animal travel agencies for the commercial export of dogs and cats to the EU and Northern Ireland excluding Great Britain.
- viii. The animals must also be loaded into the crate before the application for a health certificate is made as the date of loading into the crate must be stated on the declaration to the State Veterinarian.
- ix. The client must bring the completed health certificate (which **MUST** indicate the date **AND time** of the *Echinococcus multilocularis* treatment where applicable) as well as the following documents to the local state vet office for authorisation:
  - 1. Original and copy of the blood test results
  - 2. Original and copy of the Vaccination booklet incorporating the identification page and the page with the relevant rabies vaccination recorded
  - 3. Proof of date of transponder implantation in the form of a copy of the transponder implantation certificate or a letter from the private veterinarian that indicates the transponder number and the date the transponder was implanted and /or read.
  - 4. Written declaration form (Proof of disinfection of crates) must be completed by a private veterinarian or a commercial animal travel agent for the EU and Northern Ireland excluding Great Britain. (See appendix)

**B. For pets that have travelled before, that have completed the blood test previously AND that have been revaccinated against rabies **within the period of validity of a previous vaccination according to the manufacturer's recommendations, the following requirements must be met:****

- i. If the animal has a pet passport and the revaccination occur within South Africa, a separate vaccination certificate / book will need to be issued. South African veterinarians are not legally permitted to enter information into the EU pet passport.
- ii. The animals must come from a holding that is registered by Veterinary services Western Cape.

- iii. The procedure is the same from point (A. vi) onwards.
  - iv. Transponder must still be able to be read / active
- C.** The importer in the destination country must notify the Border Control Post where the animals will arrive, at least one working day before arrival by creating a Common Health Entry Document (CHED).
- Any other queries can be directed to the State Veterinarian on duty via the contact details below:

## Office names, locations, contact details and availability for certification

### Cape Town Veterinary export certification office (VECO)

- Contact details: [vetexport@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:vetexport@westerncape.gov.za), tel: 021 808 5400, 021 8085401, 021 8085407 fax 021 808 5125
- Our new office operational since March 2024 is located at 34 Roeland St, Cape Town City Centre, Cape Town, 8000.
  - -33.9291839,18.4183276
- At VECO , clients are assisted by appointment only on Monday to Friday from 08:30am to 12:00pm (excluding public holidays).
- To make an appointment, clients are required to send an e-mail to [vetexport@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:vetexport@westerncape.gov.za) with their required time slot. Please indicate the number of pets you are exporting in your e-mail when you make an appointment with us. Should your requested time slot not be available our office will call/e-mail you to reschedule.
- Clients are required to make an appointment at least 2 days in advance.

### Head office of the Department of Agriculture at Elsenburg /Boland state vet office

- Responsible for the greater Cape Town area, Paarl, Wellington, Franschhoek, Stellenbosch, Somerset West and Gordon's Bay.
- **Contact details:**  
Office reception  
Telephone: 021 808 5253  
E-mail: [SVBoland@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:SVBoland@westerncape.gov.za)
- Our offices are located at the Head office of the Department of Agriculture at Elsenburg. When searching on Google maps, use 'Provincial Department of Agriculture'
- GPS Co-ordinates Elsenburg Head Office: 33.845259 S 18.834722 E
- Clients are assisted by appointment only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 08:30am to 12:00pm

### Malmesbury State vet office

- Responsible for the magisterial districts of Malmesbury, Moorreesburg, Hopefield, Vredenburg, and Piketberg
- **Contact details:**

Office reception  
Telephone: 022 433 8910  
Email: [DOA.svmalmesbury@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:DOA.svmalmesbury@westerncape.gov.za)

- Our offices are located at on the corner of Spoorweg and Municipal Streets, Malmesbury.
- GPS coordinates 33.465701 S, 18.721446 E
- Clients are assisted by appointments only.

### Vredendal State vet office

- Responsible for the magisterial districts of Vredendal, Clanwilliam and Van Rhynsdorp.

- **Contact details:**

Office reception  
Telephone: 027 201 3510  
Email: [DOA.svvredendal@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:DOA.svvredendal@westerncape.gov.za)

- Our offices are located at on the corner of Matzikama Street and North Road, Vredendal.
- GPS coordinates 31.662625 S, 18.507298 E
- Clients are assisted by appointments only.

### George State vet office

- Responsible for the magisterial districts of George, Riversdale, Mossel Bay and Knysna.

- **Contact details:**

Office reception  
Telephone: 044 803 3770/1  
Email: [SVGeorge@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:SVGeorge@westerncape.gov.za)

- Our offices are located at 4 Varing Avenue George.
- GPS coordinates 33.57.31 S, 22.27.16 E
- Clients are assisted by appointments only.

### Beaufort West State vet office

- Responsible for Beaufort West, Prince Albert, Laingsburg and Murraysburg

- **Contact details:**

Office reception  
Telephone: 023 414 9220/1  
Email: [DOA.svbeaufortwest@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:DOA.svbeaufortwest@westerncape.gov.za)

- Our offices are located in Blyth Street, Beaufort West.
- GPS coordinates 32.375009 S, 22.589063 E
- Clients are assisted by appointments only.

### Swellendam State vet office

- Responsible for the magisterial districts of Swellendam, Heidelberg, Bredasdorp and Caledon.

- **Contact details:**

Office reception  
Telephone: 028 425 4850

Email: [DOA.svswellendam@westerncape.gov.za/](mailto:DOA.svswellendam@westerncape.gov.za/)

- Our offices are located in the main road, 67 Voortrek Street, direct at the back of ABSA bank.
- GPS coordinates 34.02126 S 20.44140 E
- Clients are assisted by appointments only.

### Worcester State vet office

- Responsible for the magisterial districts of Worcester, Robertson, Ceres and Montagu.

- **Contact details:**

Office reception

Telephone: 021 808 5056/2

Email: [DOA.svworcester@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:DOA.svworcester@westerncape.gov.za)

- Our offices are located at 30 Van Arckel street, Worcester.
- GPS coordinates 33.623641 S, 19.457008 E
- Clients are assisted by appointments only.

### Oudtshoorn State vet office

- Responsible for the magisterial districts of Oudtshoorn, Ladismith, Van Wyksdorp, Calitzdorp, De Rust and Uniondale.

- **Contact details:**

Office reception

Telephone: 044 203 9443/5

Email: [DOA.svoudtshoorn@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:DOA.svoudtshoorn@westerncape.gov.za)

- Our offices are located at 39 Van Der Riet Street, Oudtshoorn, 6620
- Clients are assisted by appointments only.

**DECLARATION FOR THE CLEANING AND DISINFECTION OF TRANSPORT CRATES**

I, the undersigned ....., declare that the crates for following animals were cleaned and disinfected and pets are loaded on .....(Date).

Transponder/tattoo(?) alphanumeric code	Body weight of pets	Weight of crates

Name of the owner: .....

Name of approved disinfectants: .....

Date of disinfection: .....

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

Name of signatory.....

\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Stamp