



## Non-commercial export of dogs and cats to the European Union (EU)

This advisory is based on EU regulation No 577/2013,

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.

Non-commercial export of dogs and cats requires that **the owner travels within five days of the animal. Where the non-commercial movement of a pet is carried out by an authorised person, it may only take place within five days from the movement of the pet owner.** If this is not possible please refer to the procedure for commercial exports of dogs and cats to the EU.

### Procedure

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

- i. The pet **MUST** have a transponder (Microchip) implanted and/ read by a veterinarian.
- ii. 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
- iii. 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. The vaccination day = day 0
- iv. 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).
- v. Within 120 hours (5 days) of travelling **BUT NOT LESS THAN 24 HOURS**, the pet must see a private veterinarian for a health check (and *Echinococcus multilocularis* treatment in the case of dogs travelling to Malta, Ireland, Finland or the UK) and the **private veterinarian must complete a veterinary health certificate for dogs and cats travelling to the EU (not the 'old' EU certificate).**

vi. 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 certified copy of the blood test results
2. Vaccination booklet and a certified copy – this should incorporate the identification page and the page with the relevant rabies vaccination recorded
3. Proof of date of transponder implantation in the form of a certified copy of the transponder implantation certificate or a letter from the private veterinarian that indicates the transponder number and the date the transponder was read.
4. Written declaration referred to in Article 25(3) of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 (See appendix), **that MUST be completed and signed by the owner.**
5. If a COPY of the written declaration completed by the owner, referred to in point 4 above, is produced at the time of certification (this COPY shall be retained by our offices for record purposes), the agent/pet travel company shall ensure that the owner signs and completes the written declaration that is to accompany the original veterinary health certificate.
6. In the event that the owner elects to have someone else (authorised natural person) carry out the movement of the animal on behalf of the owner. The following procedure shall apply as per EU Regulation No 576/2013:
  - i. A letter from the owner stating that they are the owner of the said animal and grant permission for the said authorised natural person to transport the animal of their behalf. This letter shall be accompanied by a certified copy of the owners ID book or passport.
  - ii. The written declaration referred to in Article 25(3) of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 completed by the authorised natural person that fulfils the requirements of point 6 (i).
  - iii. The boarding pass or flight ticket of the owner and authorised natural person. (This natural person **must** accompany the animal on the journey **and may only do so within five days from the movement of the pet owner.**)
7. If there are more than 5 animals the receipt of entry to the event or proof of membership of a dog/cat show or club.

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**

- i. Should 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 procedure as described from point A.(v.) above, onwards needs to be followed.
  - iii. Transponder must still be readable/ active
- Certificate application cost can be found on the departmental tariff list (Cost per application in 2023 is R209 each). The cost of the certificate application is payable on appointment.
  - 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.

PART 3

**Written declaration referred to in Article 25(3) of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013**

Section A

**Model of declaration**

I, the undersigned

(<sup>1</sup>)

[owner or the natural person who has authorisation in writing from the owner to carry out the non-commercial movement on behalf of the owner(<sup>2</sup>)]

declare that the following pet animals are not subject to a movement that aims at their sale or a transfer of ownership and will accompany the owner or the natural person who has authorisation in writing from the owner to carry out the non-commercial movement on behalf of the owner(<sup>2</sup>) within not more than 5 days of his movement.

Transponder/tattoo( <sup>2</sup> ) alphanumeric code	Animal health certificate number

During the non-commercial movement, the above animals will remain under the responsibility of

(<sup>1</sup>) either [the owner];

(<sup>1</sup>) or [the natural person who has authorisation in writing from the owner to carry out the non-commercial movement on behalf of the owner]

(<sup>1</sup>) or [the natural person designated by the carrier contracted to carry out the non-commercial movement on behalf of the owner: \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name of the carrier)]

Place and date:

Signature of the owner or natural person who has authorisation in writing from the owner to carry out the non-commercial movement on behalf of the owner(<sup>1</sup>):

(<sup>1</sup>) To be completed in block letters.

(<sup>2</sup>) Delete as appropriate.

Section B

**Additional requirements for the declaration**

The declaration shall be drawn up in at least one of the official language(s) of the Member State of entry and in English and shall be completed in block letters.