

How to bring your pet dog in to UK Quarantine

Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
A brief summary of the UK requirements/regulations:

**Before you do anything, contact DEFRA
for their most up to date requirements
relating to your dog's country of origin!**

Choosing a quarantine premises

First, you will need to choose suitable licenced [quarantine premises](#) for your pet.

Current listings of approved premises are available from DEFRA.

In choosing suitable quarantine premises (and do bear in mind that your dog will probably be spending six months in residence there), you might want to consider whether:

- The premises offers a level of comfort and care for your pet that you would be happy with.
- It is within reasonable travelling distance of your home (so you can visit your dog easily).

Reserving quarantine accommodation for your pet

After you have chosen suitable premises, you will need to reserve accommodation for your pet.

Do book well in advance, particularly in the holiday months.

Agree a [contract](#) with the owner of the premises including all financial arrangements and costs etc.

Booking a carrying agent

You will also need to reserve the services of a DEFRA [authorised carrying agent](#).

The carrying agent will meet your pet at the port or airport of disembarkation and will be responsible for your pet's security whilst in transit to the quarantine premises.

Your quarantine premises may be able to provide this service for you as many of them are also DEFRA authorised carrying agents.

Approved ports/airports

Check which [airport](#) in the United Kingdom your pet will be arriving at as animals going into quarantine can only be landed at certain airports (refer to DEFRA).

Arrange shipping from the country of origin with a suitable airline (your chosen quarantine premises may be able to offer you advice based on their previous experiences).

Bear in mind that some airlines have an embargo on certain breeds including many bullbreeds. Strict ambient temperature limits apply for shipping animals by air so consider the time of year that your pet will be travelling.

Getting an import licence

Most quarantine premises will deal with all the paperwork on your behalf, including submitting an application form ID1 for an [import licence](#), arranging to collect your pet at the airport of landing and clearance through Customs.

If you are bringing an animal into quarantine in the UK, you must be issued with an import licence. You will need an ID1 [application form for this licence](#). This can be filled in by the quarantine premises on your behalf.

Having your quarantine premises handle the paperwork is probably the best and easiest option.

If you want to complete the application form yourself, you should only do so when you have received confirmation of your arrangements from both the quarantine premises and the carrying agent. You should then send the application to DEFRA. If your pet will enter the UK outside England, you should pass your application to the appropriate Agriculture Department in Scotland or Northern Ireland.

When DEFRA receive your application form, they will confirm your booking with the quarantine premises and the carrying agent. DEFRA will then:

- Send the licence to the carrying agent you have chosen. The licence will normally be issued within five working days of receiving a properly completed application form.
- Send a "boarding document" to you (or your named representative). This will confirm the licence number and also act as written evidence which a shipper or airline will need to see before allowing your animal to be carried into this country.

Early Release from Quarantine

- As an alternative to your dog spending the full six months in quarantine, it is possible to do a kind of hybrid import whereby the dog is microchipped, rabies vaccinated and subsequently rabies antibody-tested in his country of origin as per the requirements of the DEFRA Pet Passport/Pets Travel Scheme.
- If all of DEFRA's requirements are met, you can apply for what is known as "Early Release" from quarantine. In short: assuming a satisfactory blood test result, the effective quarantine period will run from the date the blood sample was drawn for antibody testing. For example, if the dog remained abroad for 3 months after the blood sample was drawn, then he need only spend three months in quarantine. If this alternative interests you, get detailed advice from DEFRA and your chosen quarantine premises.

Vaccinations prior to entry to the UK

At the time of writing, DEFRA did not require any form of health certificate or vaccinations before your pet is imported into full six-month quarantine in the UK although if you are importing a cat from Australia or a dog or cat from Malaysia there are some [additional requirements](#). However, it obviously makes very good sense for the health of your pet to have it fully vaccinated and examined by a vet in its country of origin.

Please note that some transport companies may require some form of health certification to be issued by a vet before they allow the animal to travel. A vet will do this for a small fee and it is probably a good thing to do whether the transport company requires it or not.

How much will it cost? Work it out yourself....

- The cost of buying the dog (the breeder will probably want some extra payment to cover the extra expense and hassle generated by the whole import process).
- Vet's fees in the dog's country of origin.
- Cost of shipping the animal by air.
- Quarantine Kennel Fees including their fees for paperwork processing.
- Veterinary Fees for vaccinations, examinations, routine health checks etc during quarantine.
- Carrying agent fees for collecting your pet from the airport it lands at. There will probably also be fees payable for UK customs and DEFRA clearance at the airport, your carrying agent may include these in his fees.
- To all this, add your own travel costs because it is very probable that you will want to fly out and see the dog you wish to import and meet its breeders etc.
- It's not going to be cheap....

This information was current at the time I prepared this piece....

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DEFRA's website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/>