



Passport With Pets

By Bennett Leigh

Moving overseas can be stressful enough, but deciding what to do with your beloved pet when you move can just add to your worries.

Should you take Fido with you? Some countries have strict animal importation laws and impose long quarantines when an animal is brought within their borders. In these cases, you must decide if it would be better for all involved to leave your pet in the care of a trusted loved one in the states until you complete your duty overseas.

But if you're willing to do whatever it takes to ensure Fluffy stays with you no matter where you go, here is some helpful information concerning Guam, Hawaii, Japan and Korea:

Guam

Guam law requires animals to complete a 120-day confinement in an approved Commercial Quarantine Facility. If specific pre-arrival and post-arrival requirements are met, animals may qualify for the alternate 30-day quarantine. And a five-day or less quarantine program for pets entering Guam is also offered, provided that requirements are met prior to entry.

To enter the country, your pet must meet these pre-arrival requirements: a completed Application for



Entry Permit (which costs \$60, payable by money order or certified check), vaccinations including rabies, a health certificate and a quarantine reservation.

The Guam Department of Agriculture recommends that pets that are very old, less than 9 weeks of age, chronically ill or debilitated, or pets that experience difficulty in hot climates, not be imported into Guam for quarantine. Pregnant animals past 45 days of gestation, are prohibited entry into quarantine.

For more information and details, visit <http://k9.gov.gu/>

Hawaii

Hawaii is rabies-free, and the state's quarantine law is designed to keep

it that way. No matter their age, dogs and cats are all subject to the state's import requirements.

Dogs and cats meeting specific pre- and post-arrival requirements may qualify for five-day-or-less quarantine program, which has a provision for direct release at Honolulu International Airport after inspection. Pets who fail to meet the requirements are quarantined for up to 120 days once they arrive in Hawaii.

To qualify for the five-days-or-less program, a pet must have had at least two rabies shots in its lifetime, the latest one no sooner than 90 days before arrival in Hawaii. Your pet must also have an OIE-FAVN rabies blood test completed no less than 120 days before its arrival, and it must also be microchipped for identification.

Puppies and kittens younger than about 10 months old are typically too young to complete the requirements for the five-day-or-less program, and will be quarantined for 120 days.

For more information, and qualification checklists, visit www.hawaii.gov/hdoa/ai/aqs/info

Japan and Okinawa

The U.S Department of State recommends travelers start the process of preparing their pets for the trip to Japan about seven months before their scheduled arrival—since that's how long it typically takes to com-

plete all the requirements. There have been no reported cases of rabies in Japan since 1957—and officials intend to keep it that way.

Your pet must have microchip identification, and it must be done before the two required rabies vaccinations. There are only two types of microchips that can be read at Japan Animal Quarantine Stations—for all others, you must bring your own microchip reader.

Your pet must also receive a Fluorescent Antibody Viral Neutralization (FAVN) blood test to ensure that the rabies vaccinations have provided adequate rabies antibody levels. This test must be approved by a facility approved by the Government of Japan (there are only two such facilities in the U.S.)

No later than 40 days before arrival in Japan, you must fax a formal notification to AQS on an Import Application Form. AQS will send an acknowledgement upon receipt of the form.

Animals without the proper health certification, microchipping and testing may be subject to up to 180 days of quarantine at their owner's expense. The kennel rates for quarantine in Japan are roughly \$30-35 per day.

For more information, including detailed checklists and necessary forms, visit Japan's Animal Quarantine Service website at www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/index.html

Korea

Rules for bringing a pet to Korea are slightly more relaxed than those for Hawaii or Japan. A maximum of four animals per person or family are allowed into the country. Any more than that requires advance notice to the National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service branch office of entry so that animals can be held

in a quarantined area for one day upon arrival.

Animals 90 days and older are required to have a quarantine certificate or a rabies vaccination certificate from an authorized body. Animals younger than 90 days must have a health certificate issued by a veterinarian.

If your pet has had its rabies vaccination at least 30 days before arrival

in South Korea and no health problems are found during initial inspection, then no quarantine confinement is required.

For more information, visit Korea's National Veterinary and Research Quarantine Service at www.nvrqs.go.kr/eng/rese_quarantine_02.asp?pageNumber=3-0 ●

Bennett Leigh is a freelance writer from Northern Virginia