



St Helena Government
Agriculture and Natural Resources Division
BIOSECURITY

Guidelines for importers of dogs and cats from the UK

These guidelines accompany the Import Health Standard for the Importation of DOGS AND CATS FROM THE UK into the Island of St Helena.

St Helena is more stringent than the UK because St Helena is much 'cleaner' disease-wise. Hence we also have an official DEFRA (UK Min of Ag) export certificate (EHC) which require a sequences of tests and treatments. The tests cover about 1 month prior to export and must be from a government approved laboratory (they meet certain ISO testing standards). You'll do this through your normal vet, and he/she will know which labs to use. This will be a DEFRA appointed vet (they exist in almost all private practices), called an OV (Official Veterinarian). That vet then has to sign and complete your certificate just prior to shipping to say the dog is fit to travel, but also to certify that he/she has performed the tests and treatments.

The MoD ship leaves from Marchwood (Southampton). Conditions on board are excellent. Your dog will have to be temporarily imported into Ascension while awaiting the RMS. DEFRA may tell your vet to fill in an Ascension certificate in addition to ours. There's no need. Ascension is under the same governance and the requirements and certificates for both islands are identical so that the pets can then move freely between the islands with holidaying Saints.

STEP BY STEP GUIDE:

1. In the first instance you need to fill in the import licence application form and return it to ANRD.
2. An import licence is then issued. Our Health Standard advises on the conditions attached to the licence.
3. You will then need to contact DEFRA for the new officially agreed veterinary certificate. The official certificate for the **EXPORT OF DOGS AND CATS TO ST HELENA FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM** is available from the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and from their Carlisle office. Please see contact details below. The number code for the certificate is 3921EHC with guidance notes 3921NFG.

Email: CentralOps.Carlisle@AnimalHealth.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 01228 403600

Fax: 01228 591900

They will first issue you with an application form which itself may take 10-14 days to be responded to. Be aware that DEFRA only issue the actual certificate 10-14 days before the date of export from the UK, because a change in the nation's health

status would mean recalling all health certificates so they don't want to issue too many in advance. The certificate is issued to your appointed vet NOT yourself. You and the vet can consult the 'sample' certificate provided above and at the end of the Health Standard for requirements but leave yourself plenty of time for fulfilling the necessary tests and treatments; the actual certificate is only required by the vet for signing in the last few days. Consult with your vet to organise a calendar of visits in order to be sure of making the embarkation date using the sample certificate as guidance. GIVE YOU AND YOUR VET AT LEAST 1 MONTH TO COMPLETE THE TESTS. Note: DEFRA tend to send the Ascension certificate as well as the St Helena certificate. It is only necessary for the vet to satisfy the requirements of and complete the St Helena certificate as we have made them identical in content.

4. Note that we no longer require pet passports as the UK is classified by the OIE (World Animal Health) as rabies free. However, as the only route now available is by use of the MoD ship, see below.
5. At the moment there is only one route, the MoD ship from Marchwood, Southampton:
 - a) These ships run monthly to supply the armed services in Ascension and Falklands. They have 4 purpose built kennels and stop in at Ascension. Pets are then collected from Ascension by the RMS. Ascension's requirements for entry are now the same as ours, but you may need to obtain an entry permit (see 6.). For the conditions of MoD transport see email attachment DSCOM-FIRS Pet Scheme. This includes the main contact Jeffrey.tregarthen@dhl.com. Note also that the MoD ship DOES REQUIRE A PET PASSPORT. A pet passport can now be obtained in something like 3 weeks because of a change in EU rules from 1st Jan 2012.
 - b) The current RMS schedule, subject to change, can be obtained at: <http://rms-st-helena.com/schedules-fares/>. The RMS contact is Derek Kaye dkaye@aws.co.uk.
 - c) Note that flights to Ascension do NOT take pets. (d) Note that we do not accept pets directly from South Africa. A pet flown into South Africa is deemed to be from South Africa. There are no bonded holding facilities at the airport and seaport to avoid this.
6. As you will be passing through Ascension you will also, once you know your dates, need to contact Caz Yon the Animal Officer for an entry permit. Her contact email address is stadir@cwimail.co.ac. If your pet is likely to have a stop-over in Ascension, you will need to contact Caz also to arrange for some pet accommodation – there are no kennels.
7. Further information can be obtained from:

Joe Hollins, Senior Veterinary Officer:
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Fax: + (290) 4603
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