

Customs Supervision Guide for Inbound Pets

Announced and Implemented on May 1



The Announcement of the General Administration of Customs on Further Regulating the Supervision of the Quarantine of Inbound Pets (No. 5 [2019]) that took effect on May 1 has made the processes more convenient.

Basic requirements for carrying pets to China



Classified management is conducted for designated countries or regions, as well as non-designated countries or regions.



Pets that can be carried to China are limited to dogs or cats.



One carrier is allowed to carry only one pet per entry.



Pets should be implanted with electronic chips.

Supervision Requirements for Pets Isolated for Quarantine:

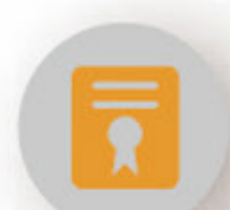


Pets that need to be quarantined should enter China at the ports where quarantine facilities are built.



Pets entering the country should be quarantined for 30 days at the quarantine site designated by Customs.

Preparations for bringing pets to China



Effective quarantine certificates and rabies vaccination certificates issued by the official animal quarantine institutions of the departure country or region need to be provided.

For pets from designated countries or regions

Preparations	Official quarantine certificate	✓
	Vaccination certificate	✓
	Microchip	✓

For pets from non-designated countries or regions

Preparations	Official quarantine certificate	✓
	Vaccination certificate	✓
	Microchip	✓
	Rabies antibody test report	✓

19 designated countries or regions



New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Hawaii, Guam, Jamaica, Iceland, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Cyprus, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Macau

Early-stage preparation

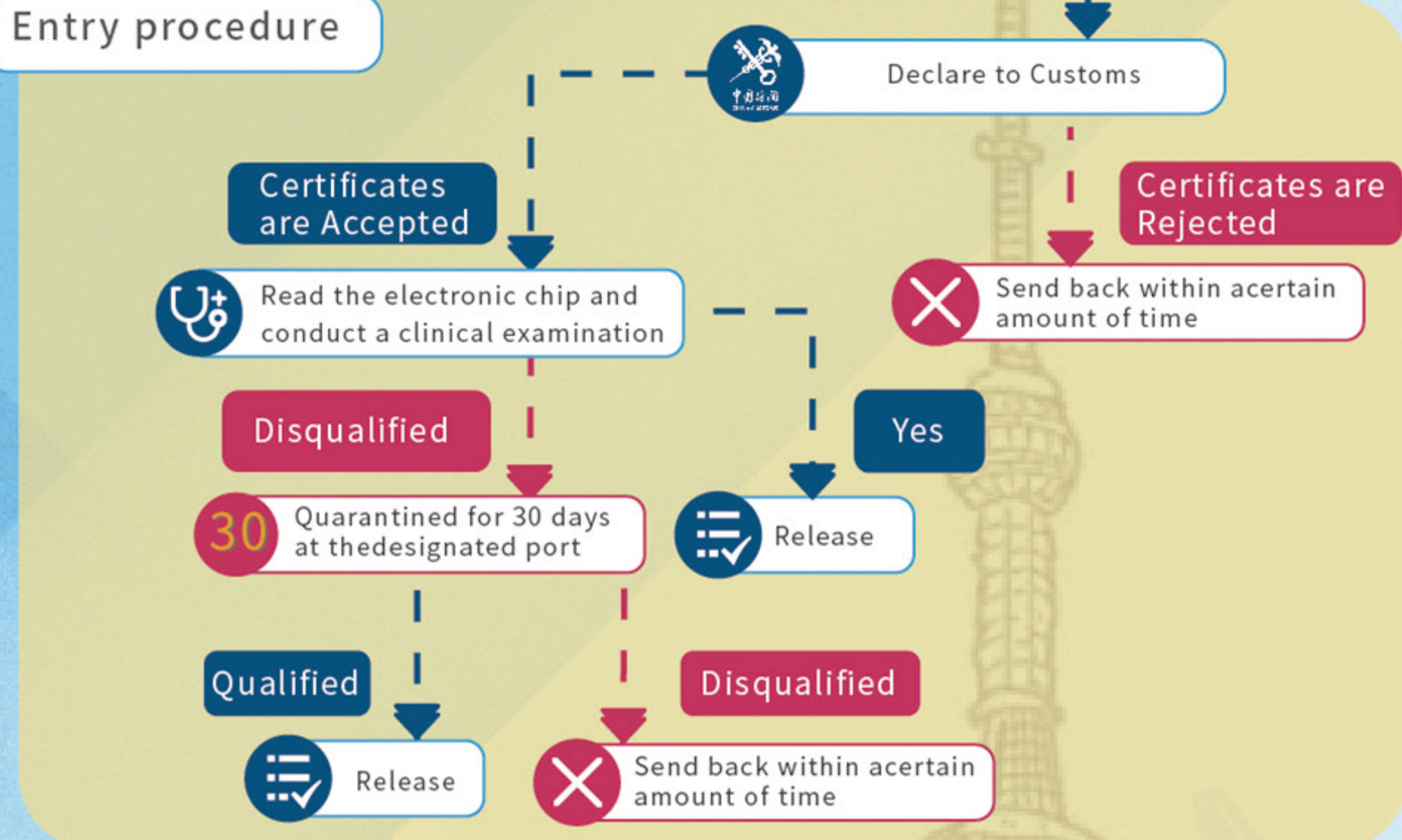


Pets must undergo a clinical examination for animal health conducted by the official agency of the departure country or region 14 days prior to arrival.



Effective animal quarantine certificates and vaccination certificates issued by the official animal quarantine institution of the departure country or region need to be provided.

Entry procedure





The attached official quarantine certificate must include:
 1. Pet information (including variety, scientific name, gender, etc.)
 2. Chip number, time of implantation and implant location
 3. Result and date of clinical examination for animal health



Chips implanted in pets must comply with international standards ISO11784 and 11785 (15 digits).
 If the chip does not comply with the above standards, the pet owner should prepare a reader that can read the implanted chip.

10 designated ports for quarantine

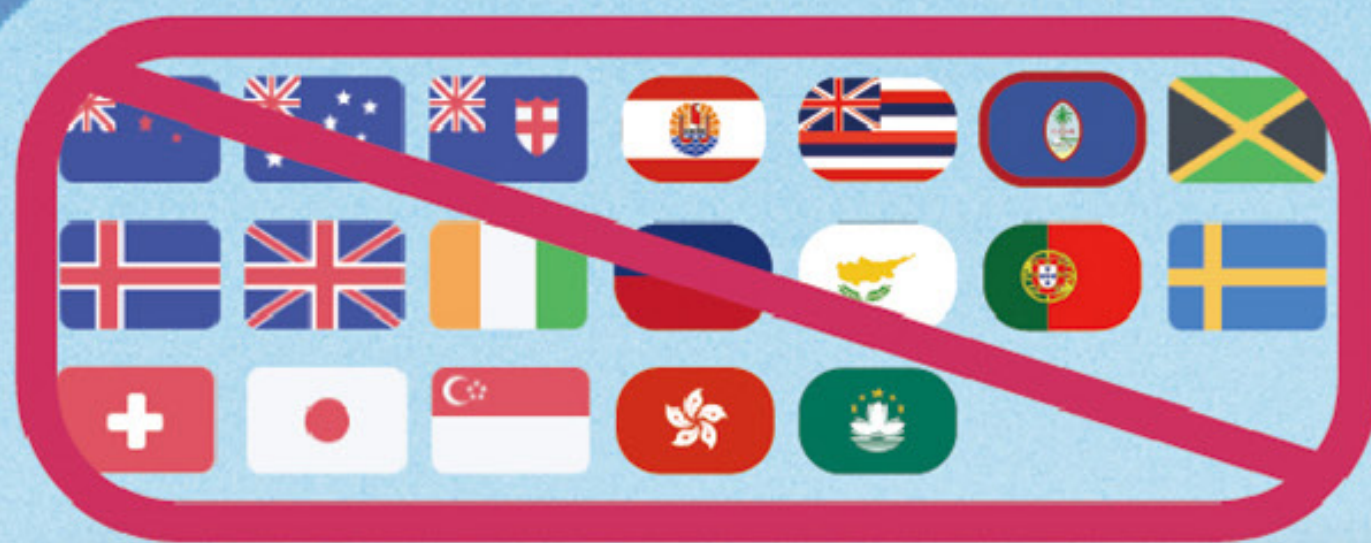
There are 10 ports with quarantine and quarantine conditions for entry pets:



- Pets do not need to be quarantined can enter the country through any port.
- Pets that need to be quarantined are only allowed to enter the country at ports with quarantine facilities.
- Pets that need to be quarantined and that enter the country through non-designated ports without quarantine facilities will be sent back within a certain amount of time.



Non-designated Country or Regions



All countries or regions except the designated countries or regions

Early-stage preparation



Pets must undergo a clinical examination for animal health conducted by the official agency of the departure country or region 14 days prior to arrival.



Pets must arrive within the "period of validity of the rabies vaccination" and the "period of validity of the rabies antibody testing report."



Effective animal quarantine certificates and vaccination certificates issued by the official animal quarantine institution of the departure country or region need to be provided.

Entry procedure



Declare to Customs

Certificates are Accepted

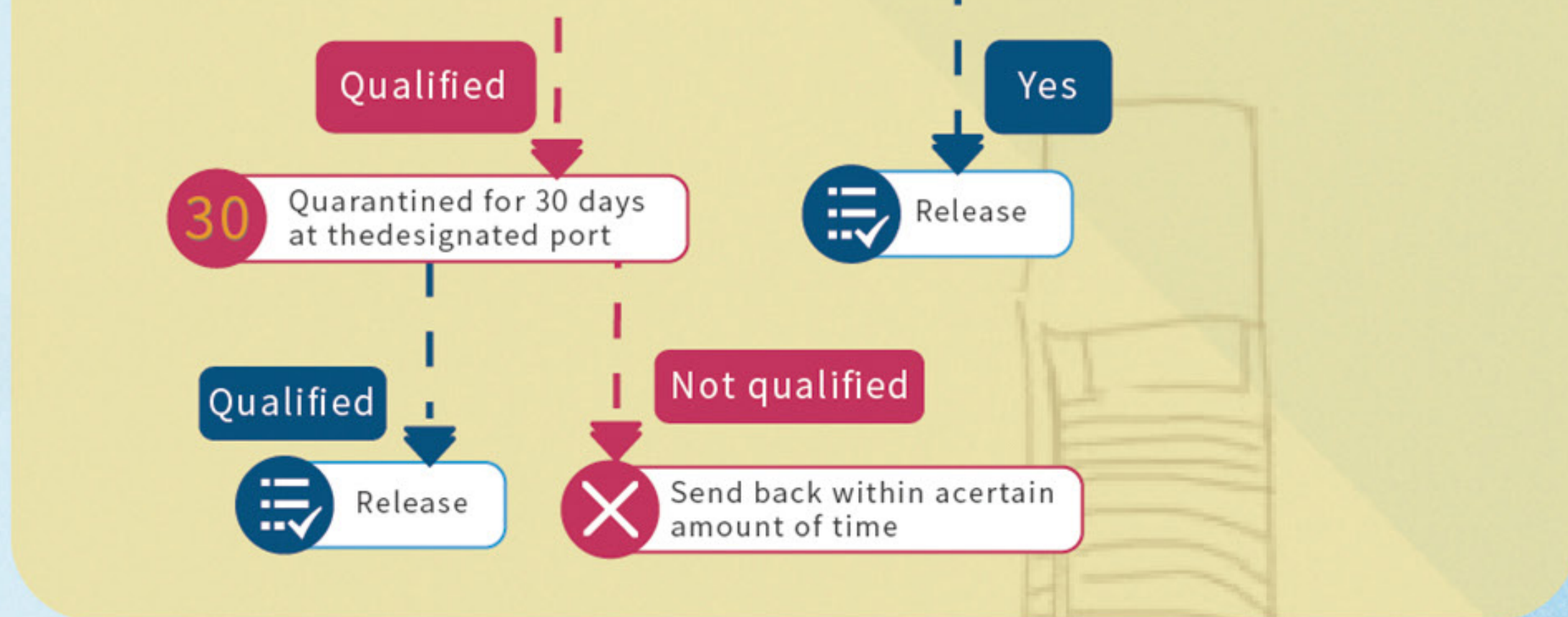


Verify the rabies antibody test report, read the electronic chip, and conduct an on-site clinical examination

Certificates are Rejected



Send back within a certain amount of time



The attached official quarantine certificate must include:

1. Pet information (including variety, scientific name, gender, etc.)
2. Chip number, time of implantation and implant location
3. Rabies vaccination information
4. Rabies antibody test information
5. Result and date of clinical examination for animal health

ISO Chips implanted in pets must comply with international standards ISO11784 and 11785 (15 digits). If the chip does not comply with the above standards, the pet owner should prepare a reader that can read the implanted chip.

Quarantine for 30 days

Situation requiring quarantine :



1. Pets without chips from designated countries and regions



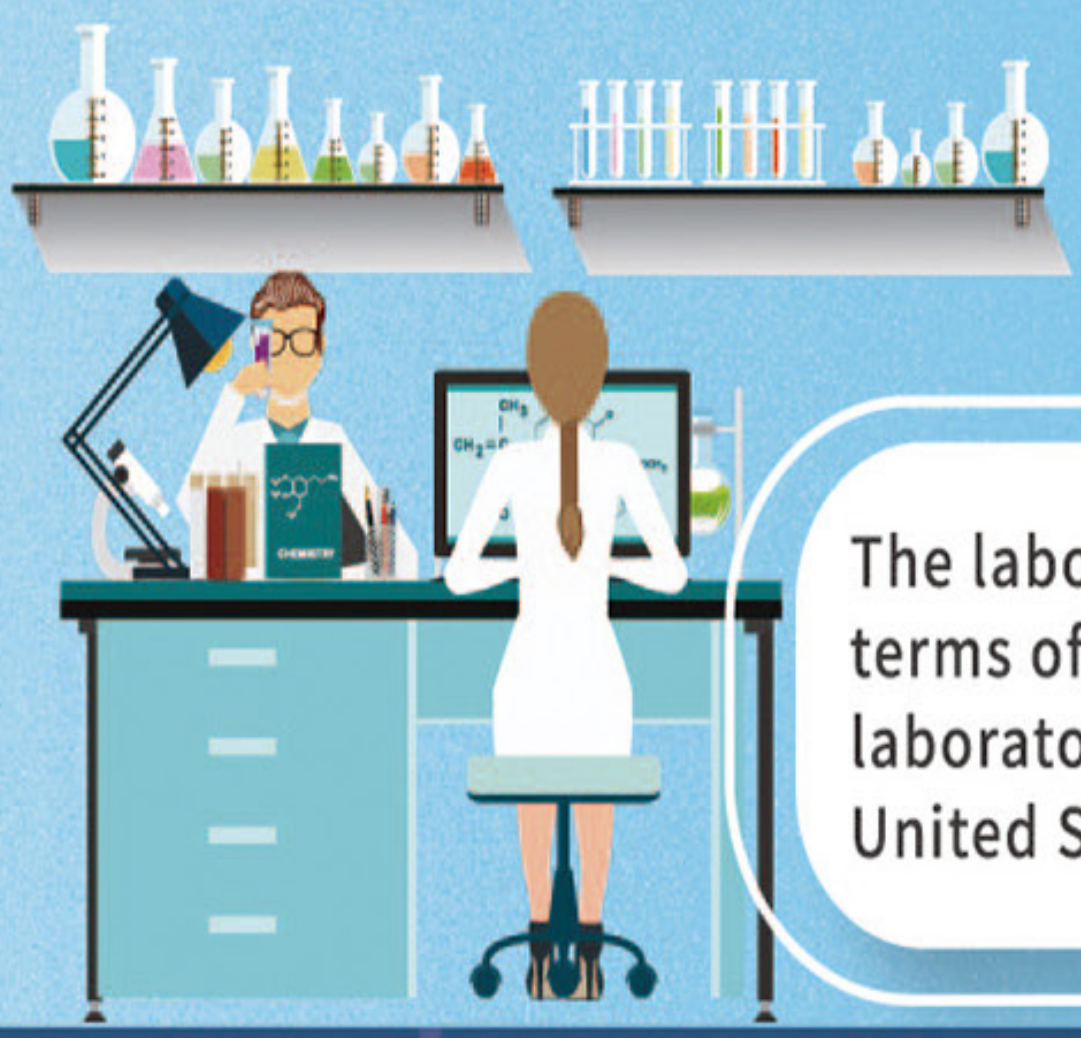
2. Pets from non-designated countries or regions, or pets that are unable to provide rabies antibody test reports issued by a laboratory trusted by China Customs, or pets that are not implanted with chips.



3. Pets found with symptoms of zoonotic diseases and parasitic diseases during on-site clinical examinations.



62 designated Laboratories



The laboratories trusted by China Customs in terms of rabies antibody test results include 62 laboratories in 37 countries including China, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Brazil:

N/S	Country	Names of laboratories
1	The United Arab Emirates	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory
2	Australia	AGES Institut für veterinärmedizinische Untersuchungen Mödling
3	Australian	Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL)
4	Brazil	TECSA LABORATÓRIOS LTDA
5	Brazil	Laboratório de Zoonoses e Doenças Transmitidas por Vetores
6	Brazil	Instituto Pasteur

7	Belgium	Sciensano *Wetenschappelijke directie Infectieziekten Mens – Dienst Virale Ziekten Nationaal referentielaboratorium voor rabies
8	Poland	National Veterinary Research Institute in Pulawy
9	Denmark	DTU Veterinary Institute
10	Germany	Institute of Molecular Virology and Cell Biology, Friedrich-Loeffler Institut, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health
11	Germany	Institut für Virologie Fachbereich Veterinärmedizin Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen
12	Germany	Eurovir Hygiene-Labor GmbH
13	Germany	Vet Med Labor GmbH
14	Germany	Landesamt für Verbraucherschutz Sachsen-Anhalt Fachbereich 4 Veterinärmedizin
15	Germany	Niedersächsisches Landesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit Lebensmittel-und Veterinärinstitut
16	Russia	Institute of Veterinary Medicine Biotechnology LLC (IBVM)
17	Russia	NoviStem LLC
18	Russia	The All Russian State Centre for Quality and Standardisation of Veterinary Drugs and Feed (VGNKI)
19	Russia	Diagnostic and Prevention Research Institute for Human and Animal Diseases (DPRI)
20	Russia	Federal Centre for Animal Health (FGI ARRIAH)
21	France	Agence Nationale de Sécurité Sanitaire de l'Alimentation, de l'Environnement et du Travail (Anses) Laboratoire de la faune sauvage de Nancy
22	France	Laboratoire départemental Eau - Vétérinaire – Air
23	France	Inovalys Le Mans
24	France	Laboratoire départemental d'analyses du Pas de Calais
25	Finland	Finnish Food Authority
26	South Korea	Choong Ang Vaccine Laboratory
27	South Korea	Seoul Regional Office of Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency (APQA)
28	South Korea	KBNP, INC.
29	South Korea	Komipharm International Co. Ltd
30	South Korea	Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency
31	Netherlands	Wageningen Bioveterinary Reserch
32	Canada	Centre of Expertise for Rabies CFIA/ACIA Ottawa Laboratory Fallowfield Animal Diseases Research Institute
33	Czech Republic	State Veterinary Institute Prague The National Reference Laboratory for Rabies
34	Croatia	Croatian Veterinary Institute
35	Latvia	Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment BIOR
36	Lithuania	National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute
37	Romania	Institute for Diagnosis and Animal Health
38	USA	DoD Food Analysis & Diagnostic Laboratory
39	USA	Kansas State University Rabies Laboratory
40	USA	Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine Department of Pathobiology Virology Laboratory
41	USA	Poxvirus and Rabies Branch Division of High-Consequence Pathogens and Pathology National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
42	Mexico	Centro Nacional de Servicios de Diagnóstico en Salud Animal
43	South Africa	Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute Rabies Unit
44	Portugal	INIAV (Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária, I.P.)- Sede
45	Japan	Research Institute for Animal Science in Biochemistry and Toxicology
46	Japan	Ministry of Agriculture, forestry and fisheries Animal Quarantine Service
47	Sweden	Statens Veterinärmedicinska Anstalt (SVA)
48	Switzerland	Institute of Virology and Immunology IVI Swiss Rabies Center
49	Serbia	Pasteur Institute
50	Slovakia	State Veterinary and Food Institute - Veterinary Institute Zvolen
51	Slovenia	University of Ljubljana Veterinary Faculty National Veterinary Institute
52	Turkey	Veterinary Control Central Research Institute
53	Ukraine	State Scientific and Research Institute of Laboratory Diagnostics and Veterinary Sanitary Expertise
54	Spain	Laboratorio Central de Sanidad Animal Santa Fe (Granada)
55	Spain	Instituto Valenciano de Microbiología
56	Greece	Athens Center of Veterinary Institutes Institute of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases Department of Virology
57	Israel	Kimron Veterinary Institute Veterinary Services and Animal Health
58	UK	APHA Weybridge Woodham Lane Animal and Plant Health Agency
59	UK	Biobest Laboratories Ltd
60	Chile	Instituto de Salud Publica de Chile Laboratorio Diagnostico de Rabia
61	China	Diagnostic Laboratory for Rabies and Wildlife Associated Zoonoses Department of Virology Changchun Veterinary Research Institute (CVRI), Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)
62	China	Biosafety Level 3 Laboratory of Guangzhou Customs

Other Matters



Sniffer dogs and dogs for the blind and deaf with valid official quarantine certificates, vaccination certificates, electronic chips and the corresponding professional training certificates can be exempted from isolated quarantine after passing the on-site quarantine.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Quarantine and Supervision of Inbound Pets

1. Do I need to declare to Customs when I take my dog to Shanghai? What is the entry process?

A: Pet owners need to declare to Customs on the spot after entering the country. The main process is as follows: After the owner brings the pet into the country, he/she declares to Customs on the spot, submits the official foreign animal quarantine certificate, vaccination certificate, and rabies antibody test report (for non-designated countries or regions), and goes through the customs formalities for entering pets on the spot. Customs officers will verify the chip number of the entering pet along with the aforementioned certificates.

(1) If the requirements are met, the pet shall be released after passing the on-site quarantine.

(2) If isolated quarantine is required, the pet will be transferred to a designated isolated quarantine site for isolated quarantine; pets whose quarantine has expired and that still qualify for release shall be released.

2. In Item 3 (7) of the Quarantine Requirements for Entering Pets of the People's Republic of China of the No. 5 Announcement of 2019 of the General Administration of Customs, P. R. China, it is stated that "the date of blood collection for the detection of rabies antibodies shall not be earlier than the second rabies vaccination (either on the same day or later)." Does this mean that the rabies vaccine must be administered twice? Can pets be tested for rabies antibodies through blood collection after their second vaccination? Must pets have two or more rabies vaccination records when they enter China? How long should the interval between the two rabies vaccinations be?

A: If the pet has not received a rabies antibody test report, the pet should complete a second rabies vaccination and then be tested for rabies antibodies through blood collection. If the pet has received a rabies antibody test report and the report is valid, no further rabies vaccination is required. The interval between the two rabies vaccinations is subject to the advice of veterinarians abroad who vaccinate pets.

3. If there is no pet chip number on the vaccination record and the pet's name has been changed before its rabies antibody test, is the rabies antibody test report still valid?

A: If the pet name and chip number on the rabies antibody test report are the same as those on the official animal quarantine certificate from abroad, and if the chip number on the certificate is the same as the chip number on the pet, the rabies antibody test report will be effective.

4. Do the new pet entry regulations come into effect after May 1, 2019? Will pets be allowed to enter the country free from quarantine if all documents are prepared in accordance with the new regulations by May 1?

A: The new pet entry regulations will be implemented on May 1, 2019. Pets entering the country after May 1 must undergo clinical animal hygiene examinations conducted by the official agencies of the exporting countries or regions within 14 days before arrival. If they meet the conditions for the exemption from quarantine, they will be exempted from quarantine.

5. Can rabies antibody test reports obtained before May 1, 2019 be used?

A: The new pet entry regulations will be implemented on May 1, including May 1. Rabies antibody test reports obtained before the new regulations can be used.

6. I plan to bring my pet to China from Thailand. There is no rabies testing laboratory approved by Chinese Customs in Thailand. Are rabies test reports issued only by local laboratories available? Can we send the serum to laboratories in China or other countries for testing?

A: Rabies antibody test reports must be issued by testing institutions whose rabies antibody test results can be accepted by the General Administration of Customs of China. The specific list can be found on the website of the General Administration of Customs. At present, rabies antibody test reports issued by rabies antibody testing laboratories in 62 countries or regions are accepted by the General Administration of Customs, basically meeting the testing needs of owners abroad. Owners are required to obtain rabies antibody test reports from any of the 62 accredited testing institutions in advance, and then bring their pets into the country.

7. Do I need to get rid of pet parasites before I bring them to China? Are there any time requirements?

A: It's recommended that pet parasites be removed. The time of parasite removal should be done according to the drug instructions or the guidance of foreign veterinarians.

8. Do I have to implant chips on pets before I bring them to China? Do chips have to be implanted before the rabies vaccinations?

A: Chips must be implanted. The chip is used for pet identification. It is used to identify whether the official quarantine certificate, vaccination certificate and rabies antibody test reports are the relevant certificates of the pet. As for when chip implantation should occur, you should follow the advice of foreign veterinarians. According to international practice, chip implantation should be done before or along with rabies vaccination in order to identify pets.

9. Do animal quarantine certificates issued by a foreign official institution have to include the chip number and implantation date? Must there be a date for blood collection, test results and a lab name for rabies antibody testing?

A: The contents of the official overseas animal quarantine certificate must include: a chip number, an implantation time and other information; if the rabies antibody test report is provided, the contents of the official overseas animal quarantine certificate must include: a chip number, an implantation time, the time of blood collection, the name of the testing institution and the results of the rabies antibody testing. According to the international practice for animal quarantine, veterinarians in exporting countries or regions should issue certificates in accordance with the official animal quarantine requirements of importing countries.

10. Hello, where can we inquire about the Chinese names of the Customs-approved laboratories?

A: The specific list can be found on the website of the General Administration of Customs of China. (Homepage » Information Disclosure » Customs Regulations » Latest Announcement » No. 5 Announcement and No. 64 Announcement of 2019 of the General Administration of Customs)

11. I'm in Canada now. My friends and I contacted the rabies antibody testing laboratory in Ottawa, Canada, designated by Customs through different pet hospitals. The veterinarian said that the test should be prepared eight weeks in advance. Now it's too late to do antibody testing for my pet. How can I take it to China?

A: Pets from non-designated countries or regions and unable to provide rabies antibody test reports issued by laboratories acceptable to Chinese Customs need to be quarantined after entry.

Chinese Customs accepts rabies antibody test reports issued by the rabies antibody testing institutions of 62 countries or regions, basically meeting the testing needs of foreign owners. A detailed list can be found on the website of the General Administration of Customs. Owners need to get rabies antibody test reports in advance, and then bring their pets into the country. Rabies antibody testing reports issued by any of the 62 accredited testing institutions are acceptable.

12. Hello, if I bring a pet to China from Russia, what documents should I prepare in advance?

A: The pet should be implanted with a chip, accompanied by the animal quarantine certificate issued by the Russian authorities, as well as the vaccination certificate and the rabies antibody test report issued by testing institutions accepted by Chinese Customs (the amount of antibodies should be above 0.51U/ml).

13. Can I bring my pet into China from cities other than Beijing, Shanghai and Urumqi without testing for rabies antibodies? What if I bring it in?

A: If a pet comes from a designated country or region in the No. 5 Announcement of 2019 of the General Administration of Customs, it does not need a rabies antibody test report as long as it carries with it an official animal quarantine certificate and vaccination certificate and is implanted with a chip. If it passes the on-site clinical quarantine, it does not need isolated quarantine and can enter the country from any port in China.

Pets requiring isolated quarantine shall only be brought into the country at ports with isolated quarantines; pets requiring isolated quarantine shall be returned or destroyed within a certain time frame if they are brought into the country from non-designated ports without isolated quarantines.

14. Hello, I am in Sydney, Australia. I saw the new customs regulations online. Is Australia a designated country? Do pets coming from Australia need rabies vaccinations? Local pet hospitals in Australia do not have the ability to vaccinate pets against rabies, because there is no rabies in Australia. What can we do in this case?

A: Australia is a designated country in the No. 5 Announcement of 2019 of the General Administration of Customs. Pets entering China from Australia do not need to provide rabies antibody testing reports. Pets, as long as they are accompanied by official Australian animal quarantine certificates, have vaccination certificates, and are implanted with chips, can enter from any port after passing clinical quarantine at the port site, and they are exempt from isolated quarantine.

15. Hello, after May 1, if my pet has not been tested for rabies antibodies, is it necessary to isolate the pet when it comes to Shanghai? How long does the isolation last?

A: If a pet comes from a designated country or region in the No. 5 Announcement of 2019 of the General Administration of Customs, it does not need a rabies antibody test report as long as it carries with it an official overseas animal quarantine certificate and vaccination certificate and is implanted with a chip. After passing clinical quarantine at the port site, pets entering from Shanghai Port do not need isolated quarantine.

Pets with an official overseas animal quarantine certificate and vaccination certificate but not issued with a rabies antibody test report and implanted with chips from countries or regions not designated in the announcement need to be quarantined for 30 days in Shanghai before they can be released.

16. On what basis has Customs designated these countries and regions? Will there be changes?

A: The General Administration of Customs, P. R. China designates these countries or regions according to the rabies epidemic-free areas announced by the OIE and the relevant regulations of the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit of Animals and Plants Quarantine. The specific list of designated countries or regions can be found on the website of the General Administration of Customs.

17. Hello, our pet was brought from China to the United States. If we bring it back to China now, is the vaccine previously injected in China still recognized? Will the rabies antibody test previously done at the Changchun laboratory still be recognized?

A: The rabies testing laboratory in Changchun, China is one of the reference laboratories for rabies testing approved by the OIE, as well as one of the rabies testing agencies that China Customs trusts. The rabies vaccine and antibody test report are recognized if they are still within their period of validity.

18. Must the owner's name on the pet rabies antibody test report be the same as the owner's name on the vaccine or health certificate?

A: It is acceptable as long as the pet chip number is the same as the pet chip number on the official overseas quarantine certificate, vaccination certificate and

rabies antibody test report.

19. Hi, I will fly from the United States with a pet dog to China with a transfer in Hawaii. How should I handle the procedure in the United States?

A: Pets departing from the United States and transiting in Hawaii should be accompanied by their official animal quarantine certificates and vaccination certificates issued by the departure region, and they should be implanted with chips. If the pet is certified to come from Hawaii by an animal quarantine certificate issued by the competent authorities of Hawaii, USA, the pet can be considered to be from a designated country or region.

20. Where is the pet after the plane arrives at its destination? Is the process the same as the process without pets?

A: The pet owner needs to negotiate with the airline at the time of boarding about the location of the pet after getting off of the plane. Transport on the same plane and separate transport are available as per your choice. Pets transported on the same plane with their owner can be picked up just as luggage is picked up, and then declared at Customs. For pets transported separately from their owner, the pet owner needs to declare their luggage transported separately (the pet) to Customs after arrival, and then handle the pet's customs formalities according to the regulatory process of Customs for luggage transported separately.

21. Is the original of the rabies antibody test report required? Can we just provide a photocopy?

A: After bringing a pet into the country, the pet owner should present the original and a photocopy of the rabies antibody test report to Customs after arriving in China. A photocopy needs to be left with Customs after examination, as the original will be returned to the pet owner.

22. Hi, do you have an English version of the new Customs regulations?

A: The Announcement of the General Administration of Customs (No. 5 [2019]) currently has no English version. You must translate it by yourself.

23. Can the Animal Quarantine Certificate issued by China Customs at the time of going abroad be used when the pet returns?

A: No, the animal quarantine certificate issued by the departure country or region is required.

24. Can I bring a pet rabbit to China from Canada?

A: Only pet dogs and cats are allowed to be brought to China. Customs does not allow carrying other animals to China, including pet rabbits.

25. Is it acceptable if the pet was injected with the rabies vaccine before being implanted with a chip?

A: Yes. It is acceptable as long as the chip number is consistent with the chip number on the rabies antibody test report.

26. Will the on-site inspection and quarantine pass if a pet with complete materials comes from a non-designated country? What are the main items of the on-site inspection and quarantine?

A: The on-site inspection and quarantine of China Customs for pets from non-designated countries or regions mainly include: a verification of official overseas animal quarantine certificates, vaccination certificates, rabies antibody test reports, chip numbers, etc., as well as an on-site clinical examination of the pets. Pets that are found to have infectious animal diseases and parasitic diseases during the on-site clinical examination need to be quarantined.

27. One person can only take one pet? What if we have two pets?

A: One carrier is allowed to only carry one pet per entry. Customs will take measures such as sending back pets beyond the quota within a certain amount of time.

28. I have a question about the period of validity of the rabies antibody test report. My pet was injected with the rabies vaccine valid for three years, but the rabies antibody test report is only valid for one year. Will the rabies antibody test report still be valid next year?

A: The period of validity of the rabies antibody test report is one year from the date of blood sampling. If the pet is injected with the rabies vaccine again within the period of validity of the last rabies vaccine, the rabies antibody test report will remain effective.

29. Are there any requirements for the date of vaccination of pets coming to China? Is it necessarily more than one month and less than one year? The rabies vaccine is valid for three years.

A: Injection instructions for the rabies vaccine generally include the age of pets suitable for injection. Scientific procedures for immunity should be undertaken under the direction of overseas veterinarians.

30. Does China have limitations on the varieties of inbound pets? I have a leopard cat. It is said that some countries do not allow entry for this animal, and is a genealogy of five generations required? Does China have such limitations?

A: All pet cats legally raised in families can be brought into China. In addition, species listed in the appendix to the CITES Convention are subject to the relevant regulations of CITES. In order to facilitate screening, it is recommended to indicate it as a domestic cat on the official overseas animal quarantine certificate.

31. How long does it take to handle the customs formalities at the airport if pet information is complete? We need to transfer in Chengdu. Do we need to apply for a domestic quarantine certificate? Is an international certificate acceptable?

A: The pet owner needs to handle customs formalities at the airport after the pet enters the country. The time taken depends on many factors such as whether the application materials provided by the owner meet the requirements, whether the pet chip is read smoothly, and whether the pet is healthy. If everything goes well, it usually takes about the same time as carrying ordinary luggage.

For pets that have completed the formalities for customs clearance at the entry port and that do not need to be quarantined but still need to transfer to other cities in China, please consult the local animal health supervision department about whether a quarantine certificate for the inter-provincial transportation of domestic animals is required.

32. Is the requirement for entry of my emotional support dog the same as that of an ordinary pet?

A: Emotional support dogs are not sniffer dogs nor guide dogs for the blind or deaf. They have the same entry quarantine requirements as ordinary pet dogs.

**For details, please refer to the Announcement of the General Administration of Customs (No. 5 、 No. 64 [2019] and No.108 [2019]).
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