

New Requirement for Entry into Japan

Effective starting **June 2005**

Total preparation time: **29 weeks**

- 1. MICROCHIPPING.** All animals coming into Japan must be implanted with an ISO standard microchip, either HomeAgain or the Avid *Eurochip*. A standard Avid microchip is not ISO compatible. Make sure the ISO microchip is implanted between the shoulder blades and can be found 30 days later.
- 2. RABIES VACCINATIONS.** Two rabies vaccinations, not less than 30 days apart, are required after the implantation of the microchip. The first vaccination can be given at the same visit as the microchip. The second vaccination must be within the effective period of the first whether that is one year or three. Both vaccinations must be an inactive or killed virus type. Those vaccinated with a modified live vaccine will be made to revaccinate using the proper vaccination.
- 3. RABIES TITER TESTING.** Any time after the second rabies vaccine is given, blood is to be drawn for a rabies titer, or FAVN, serology test. From the date this blood is drawn, it is 180 days before the animal can arrive in Japan without having to be quarantined for more than 12 hours. If the pet arrives prior to the end of this time, it will be quarantined at the owner's expense until the 180 days elapse.
- 4. NOTIFICATION.** If flying commercial airlines: No less than 40 days prior to arrival into Japan a certificate of notification must be faxed or mailed to the Animal Quarantine Station at your point of arrival. You will get an "Approval of import inspection of animals" issued by fax, e-mail, or mail letting you know when they are expecting you or if there are any problems. On this sheet will be an approval number. **KEEP THIS.** All other forms will reference to this number.
- 5. OTHER VACCINATIONS (RECOMMENDED).** 30 days or more prior to arrival, pets are to be vaccinated against other common viruses. DA2LPPC is to be used for dogs and FVRCP for cats. All other vaccines are optional.
- 6. TREATMENTS (RECOMMENDED).** Between one and four days prior to arrival pets need to be treated for fleas and mites topically and for nematodes and tapeworms internally. If not done prior to arrival, this will be done upon landing.
- 7. CONTACT THE ANIMAL QUARANTINE STATION (RECOMMENDED).** If flying on a commercial airline: One to four days prior to arrival, contact the Animal Quarantine Station where you are arriving by phone, fax, or e-mail and provide advanced notice of when you will be there. Please include approval number, scheduled airport or seaport, flight or ship number, and arrival time information.
- 8. HEALTH CERTIFICATE.** 10 days or less prior to departure, a general health certificate needs to be completed as well as a letter of acclimation. If flying commercial airline, fill out Quarantine Form A and Form C from Japan, too. If flying onto the base directly via military air or quarantining on base itself, fill out an MDJ Form 270. If completed by a civilian vet, these must be taken to the nearest USDA APHIS office to be certified prior to arriving in Japan.
- 9. HEALTH INSPECTION.** 48 hours or less prior to departure, the animal is to be inspected by a veterinarian and confirmed that it does not have or suspected of having rabies. In the case of dogs, an inspection for leptospirosis is also required.