



November 2024

Cats and dogs arriving by chartered or private aircraft

The department is aware of interest from operators and pet owners to use chartered flights to import pets to Australia.

Read this document along with our [step-by-step](#) guides for all the details you need.

Need to know

- The department must be informed if your animal will arrive by chartered or private aircraft.
- Our conditions have been developed to ensure biosecurity and animal welfare are maintained during the importation process.
- Our biosecurity requirements apply to all pets and people travelling to Australia, regardless of arrival method.

Obtain an import permit with alternative conditions

Cats and dogs can only be imported into Australia directly from [approved Group 1, 2 or 3 countries](#).

Each country group has different import requirements for cats or dogs. For Group 2 and 3 countries, this includes the requirement to hold an import permit and quarantine on arrival in Australia.

We may need to apply alternative import conditions for animals arriving by chartered or private planes, and you should ensure the department is aware of how your pet will be arriving in Australia.

Arrangements for animals arriving via chartered or private aircraft

Prior permission must be obtained from the department for cats or dogs from different country groups to arrive on the same aircraft.

For group 2 and 3 countries, the aircraft must land at Melbourne, Tullamarine Airport as its first point of entry to Australia, unless the department has provided permission to land at an alternative port.

For group 2 countries, the crate must remain sealed from the time of export with official seal(s) bearing the number recorded on the veterinary health certificate.

All cats and dogs arriving on charter flights must exit the aircraft, secured in a hard [International Air Transport Association \(IATA\) approved crate](#) that fits through the door of the aircraft. The animals will be handled by airport ground crew under biosecurity supervision and transported to the air cargo terminal before being picked up by the Post-Entry Quarantine (PEQ) team.

At landing, you must have all documentation ready to be presented to a biosecurity officer.

For group 2 and 3 countries, your pet must undertake post-entry quarantine at our quarantine facility. You will need to arrange collection of your pet with the [Post-Entry Quarantine \(PEQ\) facility](#) team prior to your animal's arrival in Australia.

Failure to comply with these conditions will be deemed a serious non-compliance by the department and may lead to civil or criminal penalties being applied.

General information on importing your pet

- The International Pet and Animal Transportation Association (IPATA) can assist you with [finding a suitable pet transport agent](#)
- Our [website](#) and [step-by-step guides](#) provide detailed information for Australian biosecurity requirements for cats and dogs entering Australia
- If you have more questions about importing a pet, email imports@aff.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2024

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights) in this publication is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia (referred to as the Commonwealth).

All material in this publication is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](#) except content supplied by third parties, logos and the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

The Australian Government acting through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has exercised due care and skill in preparing and compiling the information and data in this publication. Notwithstanding, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, its employees and advisers disclaim all liability, including liability for negligence and for any loss, damage, injury, expense or cost incurred by any person as a result of accessing, using or relying on any of the information or data in this publication to the maximum extent permitted by law.