



Veterinary import regulation 2022

The Veterinary Import Ordinance 2022 (VEVO 2022) came into force on 06.01.2023. It regulates the import, re-import and transit of live animals, animal products and by-products, products of animal origin and pathogens of animal diseases as well as objects that may be carriers of an infectious agent of an animal disease in trade with third countries.

The VEVO 2022 provides for measures to further minimize the risk of introduction of animal diseases into Austria. Explicit reference may be made in this context to the regulation in § 7 para. 2 VEVO 2022, which obliges transporters of pet animals to ensure prior to transport that the import conditions for pet animals under EU law are complied with. If this has not been done to a sufficient extent, the transporter and the pet owner are jointly and severally liable for all costs incurred.

Detailed information

In the course of border veterinary clearance by the Federal Office for Consumer Health (BAVG), compliance with the import conditions under EU law is checked. If these conditions are not met, border veterinary measures (e.g. rejection) are taken and the costs incurred are charged. Since 06.01.2023, transporters (airlines, bus and train companies, etc.) are also subject to the express obligation pursuant to § 7 para 2 VEVO 2022 to check before transport whether the import conditions for pets (dogs, cats, etc.) under EU law are met.

In case of non-compliance with this obligation, the transporters can also be obliged to reimburse the costs incurred (including costs of return transport, fees for border veterinary clearance, fees in the context of customs clearance, costs of animal treatment and animal transport as well as quarantine costs incurred). These costs are calculated on a case-by-case basis and can amount to several thousand euros per case.

- The VEVO 2022 can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/eli/bgbl/II/2022/480>
- Questions can be submitted at import@bavg.gv.at



Entry requirements with pets in the EU

- 1 Entry of dogs, cats and ferrets is possible from all third countries that are **not subject to facilitated conditions**, if the following conditions are met:

- Each animal must be marked (chip)
- Each animal must be vaccinated against rabies and this vaccination must be valid
- For each animal an Animal Health Certificate with confirmation of the serological rabies test must be presented
- An owner's declaration must be presented for each animal

If these conditions are met, the pet animal has a minimum age of 7 months.

From these third countries the **re-entry** of dogs, cats and ferrets originating from Austria or from other EU Member States is possible, if for each animal

- an EU pet passport is carried in which
- the valid rabies vaccination and additionally also
- the serological rabies test is entered. If the serological rabies test is not entered in the pet passport, a confirmation of the serological rabies test must be presented in addition to the pet passport.

The sample for rabies serological testing must:

- have been taken by an authorized veterinarian,
- have been analyzed in a laboratory approved by the EU,
- have been collected at least thirty days after vaccination and at least three months before the animal was moved from the third country, and
- have a value of at least 0.5 IU/ml.

If no serological rabies test is available and only transit through these third countries has taken place, an appropriate declaration is required.

- 2 For dogs, cats and ferrets traveling from certain third countries, **eased conditions apply**:

Serological rabies testing is not required for dogs, cats and ferrets in travel, from the following states or territories: Ascension, United Arab Emirates, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Aruba, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Barbados, Bahrain, Bermuda, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (the Caribbean Netherlands), Belarus, Canada, Chile, Curaçao, Fiji, Falkland Islands, United Kingdom (excluding Northern Ireland), Guernsey, Hong Kong, Isle of Man, Jamaica, Japan, Jersey, St. Kitts and Nevis, Cayman Islands, St. Lucia, Montserrat, Mauritius, Mexico, Malaysia (additionally Nipah disease), New Caledonia, New Zealand, North Macedonia, French Polynesia,

St. Pierre and Miquelon, Russia, Singapore, St. Helena, Sint Maarten, Trinidad and Tobago, Taiwan, United States of America (including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands), St. Vincent and the Grenadines, British Virgin Islands, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna. (As of January 2023)

The following is required for dogs, cats and ferrets entering Austria from the above states or territories in travel:

- each animal must be marked (chip)
- each animal must be vaccinated against rabies and this vaccination must be valid
- an Animal Health Certificate must be presented for each animal
- an owner's declaration must be presented for each animal

For **re-entry** from the above countries of Austrian or other EU animals, only a pet passport with a registered, valid rabies vaccination is required.