

PCSing with Pets

Sponsorship Information:

Sponsoring a family traveling with pets to Iwakuni can be confusing! It is our hope that this information sheet will provide answers to most of the questions you will encounter as a sponsor.

Please note: any questions pertaining to airline or train travel should be directed to the base DMO office.

First they will want to visit the Japanese District Veterinary Command website. The URL is www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/. On the left hand side of the webpage, you will see a link titled "Pet Import". This link will bring up a timeline for all the steps necessary to bring an animal to Japan. It also includes links to the necessary forms that can be printed and filled out. Here s a quick overview of what needs to be done before an animal can be brought to Japan:

1. The animal must be micro chipped prior to the other 4 steps.
2. It must have 2 rabies shots at least 30 days, but no more than 12 months apart. (after micro chipping)
3. Blood must be drawn and sent off with a FAN request, your local base vet can assist you with this. (the quarantine period of 180 days starts at the date that the blood is drawn.)
4. You must send an Advance Notification to the port of entry. Yours local DMO office will be able to assist you with this step (40 days in advance if possible)
5. A vet must sign a Health certificate no more than 10 days from your arrival date.

Make sure they read the website thoroughly and follow it closely; the steps must be done along a specific timeline. Contact information for the ports of entry are listed below and on the website.

Once the family has arrived in Japan, the quarantine office (for commercial flights) or the customs agents (AMC flights) will check all paperwork pertaining to the animal(s). The Iwakuni Barking Lot kennel is located in building # 1009; just past the gym on the right side of the road. Our office hours are Monday-Tuesday & Thursday-Friday 0830-1530(3:30pm).

Sponsors: Please contact The Barking Lot to reserve a spot in our boarding facility for your sponsor families pet(s) if your family does not already have a house on base. Please remember animals are not allowed in TLF. It is your responsibility to set up a time without kennel staff to pick up a key to our kennels for drop-off of the animal.

**If you or your sponsored family has further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us! We can be reached at 253-3588 (Commercial from the US 011-81-827-79-3588) during our regular business hours, or you can email us at ombiwabarkinglot@usmc-mccs.org

Vet requirements for importing pets to Japan:

www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/

SHIPPING AN ANIMAL TO JAPAN? MUST START 7 MONTHS OUT!

Shipping minus 210 days: An animal greater than 91 days old needs to have a microchip prior to two rabies vaccines. These vaccines must be greater than 31 days apart. At this time you must also draw blood for a FAVN. Unless the animal has a current FAVN (within 2 years of arrival in Japan). The results of the FAVN test are best received 180 days prior to arrival. Japan's 180 day quarantine begins on the date of receipt of results of the FAVN. If everything is in order the quarantine period can be reduced to 12 hours upon arrival. **There must be NO lapse in rabies status from the time the FAVN was drawn!! Animals other than dogs and cats are required to have the 180 day quarantine upon arrival!**

40 days prior to shipping the owner must notify the Animal Quarantine Station responsible for the port at which the animal will arrive. Dogs being shipped must have "NOTIFICATION OF IMPORT INSPECTION OF DOG" and cats must have "NOTIFICATION OF IMPORT OF ANIMALS UNDER THE RABIES PREVENTION LAW". If there are changes after the notification is sent, the owners must send "MODIFICATION ON NOTIFICATION OF IMPORT OF ANIMALS". These forms can be found at <http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/>. The Animal Quarantine Service may contact the owner regarding quarantine, so accurate contact information is necessary. The forms must be faxed or mailed to the Animal Quarantine Service. The forms will be returned to the owner and must be presented upon arrival at the port. If an animal is going to require quarantine, the owner must notify the Quarantine Service if they are to be kept at a Quarantine site other than the Station with jurisdiction over the port of arrival.

Clinical inspection before departure. Before departure (2 days or less if possible), have a veterinarian give the pet a clinical inspection to confirm that the animal does not have or is not suspected of having rabies (in the case of dogs, rabies or leptospirosis). Also, be sure to obtain a health certificate from either a military veterinarian or the USDA, that will not expire until after you have arrived in Japan.

Documents to bring with you:

- Proof of microchip with the microchip number, date of insertion and location on the animal.
- Rabies certificates proving immunization with killed or recombinant vaccine given at appropriate time intervals
- FAVN results showing an antibody titer of 0.5 IU/ml or above.
- Veterinarian inspection stating that the animal does not have or is not suspected of having rabies (or leptospirosis).
- Proof of any other vaccinations the animal is current on and any treatment of parasites both internal and external no more than 4 days before shipping. (These are recommended but not necessary). 1 to 4 days before arrival in Japan, the owner should contact the Quarantine Service via telephone, fax, or email, with the advanced notification receipt number, flight number or ship name, and scheduled arrival time and port of arrival.

Pet Travel Tips Link:

www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/tr_tips.aspx

Pet Transportation Info:

AMC Transportation

AMC Pet travel is only authorized for PCS personnel. The sponsor or a sponsor's family member must accompany the pet on AMC. The traveler must pay for the movement of all pets. Costs for pet shipment must be paid at the AMC ticket counter at check-in time.

AMC has a 100-lb. limit on pets; this includes the weight of the kennel (pet and kennel together). AMC requirements include: animals 70lbs and under (including weight of kennel) will require one space. Animals weighing 71- 100 lbs. (including kennel) will require two spaces. The cost per space is \$90.00.

For persons traveling with more than two pets, need to contact the Scott AFB, Illinois TMO office to get a letter of exception.

Two Methods of Shipping Pets AMC:

In Cabin: Carrier Dimensions must be smaller than 20"L x 16"L x 8"H and must be an airline approved carrier. Pets must be able to stand, sit, turn and lay down with normal body posture to fit this category.

Excess Accompanied Baggage Shipment: This method is available to personnel traveling to and from Japan. Requests for obtaining transportation reservations for the movement of pets as excess baggage must be submitted to the personnel office during the outbound assignment interview. While travel reservations permitting the movement of your pet cannot be guaranteed, every effort will be made to meet your requirements by the personnel office, TMO, and AMC.

Commercial Transportation

It is recommended to contact your airline in advance to get the most current information. Each airline determines their specific pet policies. The following is a list of major airlines and their phone numbers with embargo information.

United Airlines - Temperature requirements are not less than 10 degrees Fahrenheit or more than 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Unless you have PCS orders there is a Pet Embargo from 1 May- 30 Sept.

Northwest - Not less than 10 Degrees Fahrenheit or more than 85 Degrees Fahrenheit.

American Airlines - Pet Embargo is from 15 May through 15 Sept and there is no exceptions to people that are on PCS orders.

Continental - No pets will be transported in or out of Japan.

Delta - Pet Embargo is from 15 May through 15 Sept unless on PCS orders. Temperature not to exceed 85 degrees.

**To view a complete list of airlines and comprehensive animal transportation information, view these websites.

http://www.pettravel.com/airline_rules.cfm

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/pubs/pettravel.html>

A complete list of airline contact numbers and links to pet policies can be found at:

http://www.pettravel.com/links_airport_contactinfo.cfm

Numbers for the most common airlines are provided here:

American Airlines 1-800-227-4622 Japan: 0120-00-0860	Continental Airlines 1-800-525-0280 Japan: 0120-24-2414	Japan Airlines 1-800-525-3663
United Airlines 1-800-241-6522 Japan: 0120-11-4466	Northwest Airlines 1-800-225-2525 Japan: 0120-12-0747	Delta Airlines 1-800-221-1212 Japan: 0120-33-3742

NOTE: The following breeds cannot be transported in temperatures above 70 degrees on several airlines. Use the links provided above for airline specific restrictions.

- Dogs: American Staffordshire Terrier, American Pitt Bull Terrier, Bull Mastiff, French Bulldog, Brussels Griffon, Bull Terrier, Dutch Pug, English Bulldog, English Toy Spaniel, Boston Terrier, Chow Chow, Japanese Spaniel, Japanese Boxer, Japanese Pug, Pekinese, Pug, Shit Tzu, Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- Cats: Himalayans, Persians, Burmese

Japan's official Ports of Entry include:

Seaports: Nagoya, Keihin, Osaka, Kobe, Kanmon and Naha.

Airports: New Tokyo (Narita), Haneda, Nagoya, Osaka, Fukuoka, Kagoshima, and Naha.

Narita Quarantine Kennel Hours - Monday through Friday 0830-1700. Any arrivals which vary from these working hours will be considered overtime, and the pet owner will be charged accordingly (approximately Y10,000.) To avoid any problems, try to schedule your/your pet's arrival between 0800-1600, Monday through Friday.

IMPORTANT - Buses to various military installations leave Narita and Yokota on a daily basis, but space for your pet is on availability only. Depending on capacity and the time schedule, you may have to leave your pet and return later. You will be charged for your pet's stay. If on-base kenneling is not available, you may be required to return your pet to a designated Animal Quarantine Service Facility. The buses are rarely full, but it is best to make arrangements for transportation through your sponsor.