

Cats and dogs from UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Israel and Bahrain to New Zealand - treatment/testing in quarantine:

The New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries understands that the conflict in the Middle East has made it challenging to prepare cats and dogs for import **from approved countries in the Middle East** to New Zealand.

Due to this situation, MPI has put the equivalence (CTOd) below in italics in place, that allows tests and treatments, **when necessary**, to be completed in post-arrival quarantine.

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993, CTOd 2026 012 [G] allows the following:

Equivalence is given for cats and dogs from approved countries in the Middle East to allow tests and treatments as per the IHS (other than the rabies import requirements) to be completed in post-arrival quarantine. This will extend the quarantine period, as animals cannot be released until results are received.

The following process must be followed:

- Importer/pet transporter checks with the quarantine facility that there is availability for a cat to undergo treatment, or a dog to undergo the tests and treatments in quarantine.

- The quarantine facility confirms availability directly with MPI by contacting animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz or providing a confirmation letter to the importer/pet transporter.

- The import permit is updated to include this CTOd (equivalence).

Notes:

- 1. Dogs diagnosed with Babesia gibsoni or Brucella canis are ineligible for import regardless of treatment.*
- 2. Dogs diagnosed with heartworm (Dirofilara immitis) cannot remain in quarantine to receive treatment due to the length of time it may take to produce a negative test result. Reshipment will be necessary.*

Please ensure that pet owners are aware of, or check the following with the quarantine facility **before** they decide to use this equivalence:

- Expected duration of the extended quarantine period
- Additional costs associated with the extended quarantine period
- Costs of treatment and testing in post arrival quarantine.

Contact our team if you have any further questions about this equivalence.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koe, kia pai tō rā | Many thanks to you, have a good day.

Wendy

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