



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, JAPAN DISTRICT VETERINARY COMMAND
APO AREA PACIFIC 96343-5005

MCVS-PAJ

5 January 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR DOD Veterinary Treatment Facilities

SUBJECT: New Service Member Dog/Cat Import/Export Requirements for Japan

1. In November 2004, Japan began transitioning to a new quarantine program for import and export of animals and pets which will be in full effect in June 2005. As active duty military members, members of the civilian component and their respective dependents enter Japan under the US-Japan Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), the US Forces, Japan (USFJ) is currently negotiating with the Government of Japan over how this new pet quarantine program will affect SOFA status personnel. This memorandum provides guidelines and recommendations for SOFA status personnel assigned to Japan who will be transporting personal pets into and out of Japan during this transitional period while the Government of Japan and USFJ negotiate over how the new Japanese pet quarantine program will be applied to SOFA status personnel.

2. Because USFJ and Japan are currently negotiating how Japan's new pet quarantine program will be applied to SOFA status personnel, the requirements published by the Government of Japan, the USDA, and the USFJ may conflict. To minimize any inconvenience which might otherwise be experienced, we recommend following the guidelines listed below. Do not hesitate to consult with the installation veterinarians in Japan if necessary. All contact information may be found on the Japan District Veterinary Command website: (<http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/index.htm>). Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) quarantine inspectors and US Army Veterinary Command veterinarians will determine the length of each pet's quarantine period when the pet arrives in Japan. The quarantine periods will range 1 to 180 days.

3. The USFJ Veterinarian offers the following recommendations to assist SOFA status personnel in the movement of their pet to Japan. Each item listed below is important and must be accomplished **as soon as the military member is aware of movement to Japan**. This will ease the transition and acceptance of the pets into Japan.

a. Vaccinations: SOFA status personnel bringing a dog or cat into Japan should be prepared to present documentary evidence that their pet has had at least two rabies vaccinations. The most recent vaccination must have been given not less than 30 days and not later than 12 months prior to arrival. The most recent rabies vaccination form (DD 2208, Rabies Vaccination Certificate) will be required. The dates for the past 2 vaccinations will be annotated on the health certificate (MDJ 2209, Veterinary Health Certificate for Import/Export for Japan).

b. Microchipping: All animals must obtain a microchip before arriving in Japan. ISO or ISO-compatible chips that meet the ISO 11784 and 11785 Standard are recommended. HomeAgain® and AVID® microchips are acceptable. The identification number of the microchip

must be annotated on the Rabies Certificate, the Health Certificate, and on the rabies serology (FAVN) test results sheet.

c. Fluorescent Antibody Viral Neutralization (FAVN) Test: This blood test needs to be performed **as soon as possible** and is good for up to 2 years. A FAVN test result which indicates an antibody level greater than or equal to 0.5 IU/ml is acceptable. The microchip number needs to be annotated on the FAVN test result form. The FAVN blood test can be ordered through Kansas State University Rabies Laboratory or DOD Veterinary Food Analysis and Diagnostic Laboratory, Fort Sam Houston, TX.

d. Advance Notification: Kadena AB and Yokota AB currently have capabilities for handling **AMC** arrivals of dogs and cats and the advance notification is not needed. If the animal is traveling by **commercial air**, the Government of Japan requires an advance notification of pet movement **as soon as transportation is scheduled**. A notification approval will be returned and is used when checking in with the airline. Therefore, in order to avoid problems at check-in with the airline, this prior notification approval form is very important.

The advance notification form is found on the JDVC website:
(http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/r_doc.htm)

The advance notification form is required to be sent by mail or FAX to the port of entry. Addresses and FAX numbers for the respective port of entry may be found at this website:
(<http://www.maff-aqs.go.jp/english/soshiki/telepholist.htm>).

e. Health Certificate: An individual health certificate is required for each animal that is moved into or out of Japan. The health certificate is valid for 10 days and must be completed within 10 days **before arrival**. Please note that the traveler will lose one day during travel to Japan from the US. The MDJ Form 2209 (Veterinary Health Certificate for Import/Export for Japan) may be used by military veterinarians. The MDJ Form 2209 may be found on the Japan District Veterinary Command homepage: (http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/r_doc.htm).

f. USDA Certification: If a health certificate is issued by a licensed civilian veterinarian, the health certificate and rabies certificate must be certified by a USDA State Veterinarian and bear the USDA raised embossed seal. Health certificates issued by a military veterinary treatment facility using the MDJ Form 2209 do not require the USDA certification.

g. Age Requirement: Japan discourages the importation of dogs and cats under the age of 10 months. These pets rarely meet the vaccination and FAVN test requirements. Pets under the age of 10 months can be imported but must start out with a 180 day quarantine period. This quarantine period may be reduced as more of the steps above are completed. Primary emphasis is placed on microchipping, rabies vaccinations (one at 91 days of age followed by a second one at least 30 days after the first), and the FAVN test (must be drawn at least 30 days after the second rabies vaccination). For animals over the age of 10 months, all the previous recommendations apply.

h. MDJ Form 270 (Pet Quarantine and Examination Certificate; 2 copies): All SOFA status personnel entering Japan with a pet are required to complete a MDJ 270. The MDJ 270 allows your pet to be released to you for transportation to your US Military Quarantine Facility. The form may

be downloaded from the JDVC website and should be completed prior to arrival in Japan. You are required to submit the form to your US Military Veterinary Treatment Facility within 72 hours of entry into Japan.

4. **Military Working Dogs (MWD):** The MWD falls outside the above guidelines. However, health and rabies certificates are still required for travel. To avoid any problem with customs and animal quarantine officials at ports of entry, the health and rabies certificates must clearly identify the military unit or branch as the owner of the MWD. Do not use the accompanying handler's name as the owner. To alleviate problems with airlines at check in and to streamline the movement of the MWD, annotate the microchip number, vaccinations and past FAVN results on the MDJ 2209 (Veterinary Health Certificate for Import/Export for Japan).

5. Determination of the quarantine period to be applied to pets brought into Japan by SOFA status personnel is presently being negotiated and is very complicated. Regardless of the ultimate outcome of these negotiations, it is safe to say that the sooner the pet meets the microchip, vaccination, and FAVN standards, the shorter the quarantine period will be (between 1 day and 180 days). Those pets that meet these requirements will be allowed to complete the quarantine period in the owners home on base. Those that do not meet the requirements must quarantine their animal(s) at the owners' expense in a quarantine facility. When clearing customs, all supporting documentation, including the animal's health record, needs to be available for reference to answer any questions raised concerning the health and identity of the animal and the validity of the animal's records.

6. All forms and information may be found at the Japan District Veterinary Command webpage: (<http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/index.htm>). All contact information to include phone, email, or FAX information is also found there. A pet process checklist is enclosed to assist clients and veterinarians in completing all requirements in a timely manner. Any other questions may be forwarded to the respective Branch Chief or to me.

E-Signed by Kelly G. Vest
Verify authenticity with Appro

KELLY G. VEST
LTC, VC
Commanding

Enclosures
1. Checklist

Enclosure 1 – Pet Process Checklist

- Rabies Vaccinations:** Most recent vaccination certificate.
 - History of two vaccinations
 - Most recent vaccination given not less than 30 days and not more than 12 months.

- Microchip:** ISO or ISO compatible chip. (HomeAgain® and AVID® microchips are acceptable). *Include the microchip number on the rabies and health certificate and FAVN results form.*

- Fluorescent Antibody Viral Neutralization (FAVN) Test:**
 - *A passing level ≥ 0.5 IU/ml.*

 - Sent to an approved Laboratory:
 - Kansas State University Rabies Laboratory
1800 Denison Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66506
Phone: (785) 532-4483
FAX: (785) 532-4522
 - DOD Veterinary Food Analysis and Diagnostic Laboratory
2472 Schofield Rd., Building 2630
Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-6232
Phone: (210) 295-4604
FAX: (210) 270-2559

- Advance Notification:** Send notification to Port of entry Animal Quarantine Service as soon as travel arrangements are known.
 - Receive Notification Approval

 - Advance Notification Form:
 - JDVC Website: (http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/r_doc.htm).
 - or
 - MAFF Website:
(<http://www.maff-aqs.go.jp/english/ryoko/newquarantine-eng/systemqa/application.htm#tebiki>)

 - Ports of Entry contact information:
(<http://www.maff-aqs.go.jp/english/soshiki/telephonest.htm>).

- Health Certificate:** Obtain within 10 days of arrival.
 - **Military Veterinarians may use the MDJ 2209**

- USDA Certification:** Required for all health certificates issued by **civilian** veterinarian. (Both health and rabies certificates must be endorsed with raised seal.)

- Age Requirement:** Japan discourages importation of dogs and cats < 10 months old. These steps apply:
 - Vaccination at ≥ 91 days old.
 - Vaccination at ≥ 121 days old.
 - FAVN test at ≥ 151 days old.