



Export

of Cats and Dogs From Fiji

Are you planning on taking your pet dog(s) and/or cat(s) out of Fiji? Whether you are visiting or relocating to another country, you are required to meet certain import requirements of the country you are travelling to and export requirements from Fiji before you can take your pet dog and/or cat overseas.

In this week's article, we examine the procedures that must be fulfilled for exporting pets from Fiji.

The Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) is mandated under the Biosecurity Act 2008 to protect Fiji from the entry and establishment of exotic plant and animal pests and diseases. At the same time, BAF also is responsible for ensuring import standards of trading partners are met when plants, plant products, animals and animal products are exported from Fiji.

In accordance with the Biosecurity Act 2008, all dogs and cats for export must be inspected and provided with an Export Health Certificate or a Veterinary Certificate to be eligible to enter the country it is traveling to. Additionally, depending on the importing country's import requirements, animals may be required to undergo certain treatment, tests and vaccination in Fiji prior to export.

As mentioned earlier, dogs and cats are exported from Fiji under conditions designed to manage the health requirements of each importing country. Import permits may be required for entry of animals into most of the countries while others only require health certificate or veterinary certificate issued by BAF.

It is the onus of the owner or exporter to check whether the country he or she is intending to take the animals to requires an import permit. This information can be found out by visiting the official website of the relevant government authority (Animal Quarantine Department) for the destination country.

The owner or exporter is also responsible for ensuring that the animal(s) comply with all of the importing country's requirements at the time of export. All treatment, testing and/or vaccination can be taken care of by pet handling agents or veterinary clinics. While making this arrangement, the owner or exporter must also make sure that the importing country's requirements are well understood and relevant treatments, vaccination or laboratory testing are carried out and documentations are appropriately created.

For BAF to carry out the necessary inspections and provide the needed certifications, a BAF Veterinarian must be notified by making necessary appointment arrangements or by visiting a nearby BAF office. Alternatively, the same request can be sent to animalimports@baf.com.fj and info@baf.com.fj.

An appointment has to be made for the final inspection and export certification for

the animal of concern. The date and time of the final inspection varies, once again, depending on the importing country's import requirements. Seven (7) days prior to the date of the final inspection, all documentation that has been filled and signed by BAF's registered veterinarian together with any other relevant documents (for example, import permits if required, vaccination certificates, laboratory test results, internal and external parasitic treatment and any other treatments undertaken, etcetera) must be provided to the BAF Veterinarian.

Based on this documentation, the BAF veterinarian will determine whether the animal is suitable for export. The Export Health Certificate will only be issued once the BAF veterinarian is satisfied that the animal(s) have undergone all treatments, tests and vaccinations in accordance with the importing country's requirements.

Pet animal identification is very important in identifying the particular breed of animal during export certification. Most of the countries require microchip identification for pet animals thus having a microchip ID done for your pet is a great advantage in exporting pet animals to out of Fiji to any country.

It is also extremely important to note that if you are planning to bring your pet back to Fiji, it is necessary that you are aware of the import requirements for bringing cats and dogs into Fiji - before you leave Fiji. Please take note that some of the countries require a declaration certificate from the owner if someone is exporting the dog or cat on the owner's behalf; thus an owner statutory declaration must be provided.

If an owner (passenger) is travelling with a pet providing assistance (service pet), especially an assistant dog, some of the import/export requirements may be exempted, however, all the rest of the conditions of the importing country must be met.

Furthermore, a transit permit may be required for all dogs and cats transiting through Fiji. The exporter from the country of origin is responsible to make all the necessary arrangements to obtain a transit permit for the dogs and cats if the dogs and cats will be making their way to another country through Fiji.

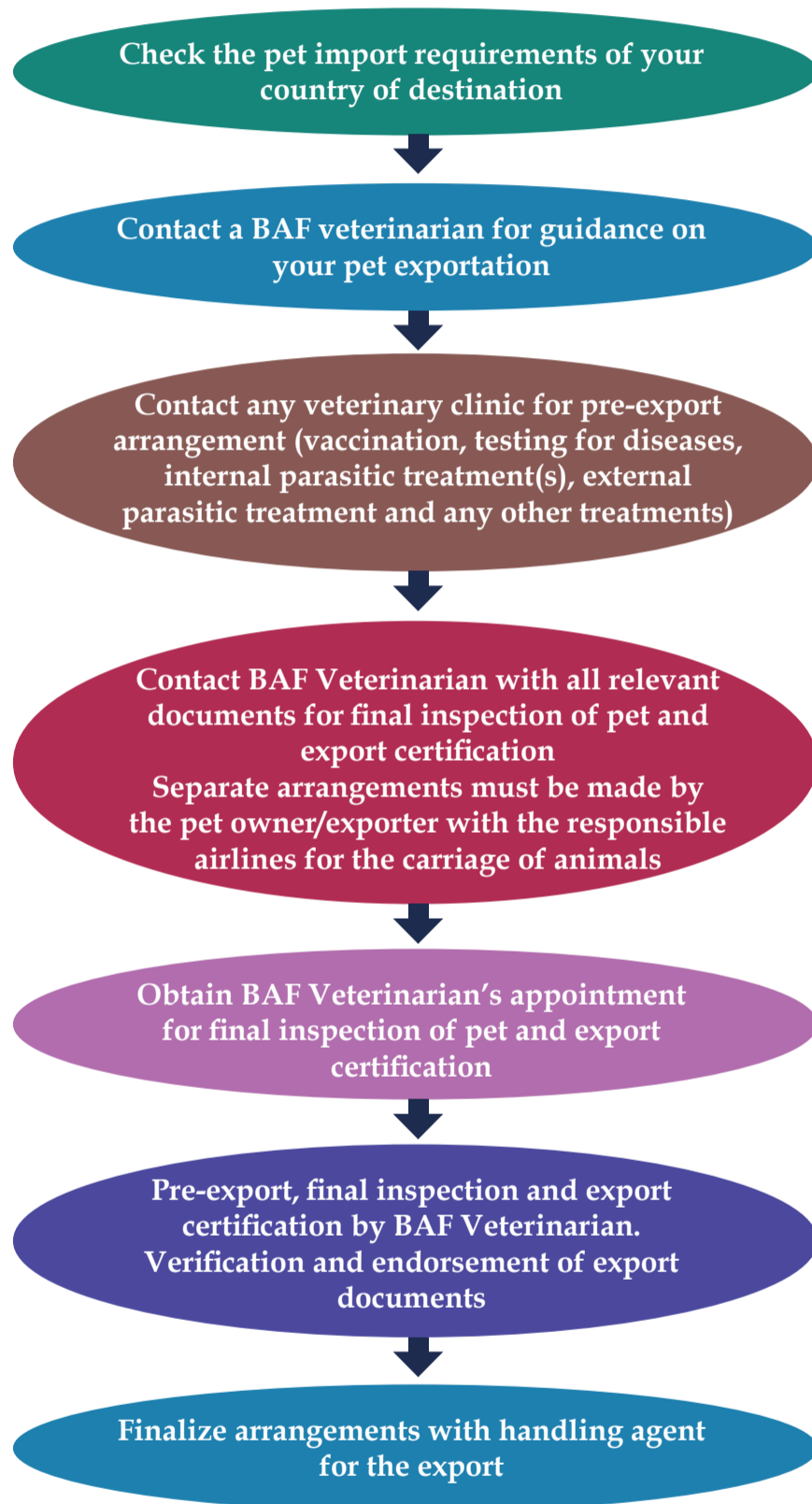
The exporter from the country of origin (or his/her handling agent) is responsible for organizing transport and any post-entry quarantine that may be required by the

importing country while in transit through Fiji. Separate arrangements must be made by exporter/owner with respective airlines for carriage of the animals well in advance.

As stated earlier, the scheduled departure date determines the timing of the preparation activities and final inspection by the BAF veterinarian as well as the appointment time for the issuing of the official export documentation. Some airlines require animals to be transported by known agents such as animal transport companies. Please check with your airline for any special arrangements.

Animal transport containers or crates must comply with the specifications of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) requirements, which defines container design, construction and size that must be adhered to in order to load them on an airplane. The container must be of sufficient size to allow each animal enough space to turn about normally while standing, to stand and sit erect, and to lie in a natural position while inside the crate. It is better to prepare the pet crate early which will allow your pet sufficient time to be trained for the crate.

Before Leaving Fiji



It should also be noted that the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) will not be able to facilitate the export of your dogs and/or cats if your dogs and/or cats do not meet certain import and export requirements.

Incomplete certification and documentation or failure to comply with any of importing country's requirements will result in the dogs and/or cats either being re-shipped to Fiji or euthanized at the port of entry of the importing country at the importer's expense.

In conclusion, BAF would like to remind people planning to take dogs and/or cats out of Fiji to contact BAF on the **Animal Disease Surveillance short code 5997** or visit the most nearby BAF office or contact on BAF email (info@baf.com.fj and animalimports@baf.com.fj) for any further queries.

For Further Information Please Contact:

Biosecurity Authority of Fiji on 3312512 or
Short Codes: General Enquiries - 5994,
Termites - 5996, Giant Invasive Iguana (GII) - 5995,
Animal Disease Surveillance - 5997
or email info@baf.com.fj, visit BAF website www.baf.com.fj