



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
VETERINARY SERVICES UNIT
DARVILLE'S COMPLEX, GLADSTONE & MUNNINGS ROAD
P.O Box N-3704
NEW PROVIDENCE, THE BAHAMAS
TELEPHONE: 1(242)397-7450/1
www.bahamas.gov.bs/agriculturemarine

THE BAHAMAS ANIMAL IMPORT REQUIREMENTS

A valid import permit is **REQUIRED** to be in hand prior to the departure of live animal(s) and animal products from the Ministry/Department of Agriculture & Marine Resources, for all animals being brought into the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

The complete application form, processing payment for each Permit request must be submitted, along with **animal health documents** ie. rabies antibody titer test results issued within the 6 months immediately prior to arrival in The Bahamas, pet passport or vaccination/medical history, to the Director of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture. For more information, call 1(242)-397-7450/1.

NB. ALL APPLICATIONS USUALLY TAKES TWO (2) BUSINESS DAYS TO BE PROCESSED ONCE RECEIVED AT THE PROCESSING UNIT. APPLICATIONS THAT ARE SENT VIA POSTAL MAIL TAKES AN AVERAGE OF 6-8 WEEKS TO ARRIVE AT THE PROCESSING DEPARTMENT.

Payment Methods:

The complete application form must be accompanied by a processing fee of \$10.00 plus 12%VAT (12% of the value of the processing fee) for each animal (unless otherwise indicated according to the Application Form on the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources official website) and a \$5.00 fax fee (optional) for the approved Import Permit returned by fax – **money order or cash only**. **NO PERSONAL CHEQUES** will be accepted. Payments can be mailed to:

*Director of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
Darville's Complex
Gladstone & Munnings Roads
P.O. Box N-3704
New Providence, The Bahamas*

NB: Unless otherwise requested at the time of submission the Permit will be returned by postal mail.

The following are the main requirements on the import permit as it applies to dogs and cats:

- (a) The animal **MUST** be 6 months of age or older
 - (b) The animal **MUST** be accompanied by valid health records which substantiates that it has been:
 - (i) Vaccinated against rabies within not less than one (1) month and not more than ten (10) months prior to importation for the one (1) year vaccine. For the three (3) year vaccine it must be within no less than one (1) month and not more than thirty-four (34) months prior to importation into the Bahamas.
 - (ii) The dog (s) has/have adequate levels of immunity conferred by being actively immunized against the following diseases: Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Leptospirosis, Adenovirus and Coronavirus (Coronavirus can be administered within a combination vaccine)
- Or
- The cat (s) has/have adequate levels of immunity conferred by being actively immunized against the following diseases: Feline Leukemia, Feline Rhinotracheitis, Feline Calicivirus, Feline Panleukopenia and Feline Pneumonitis
- (iii) The animals should be declared free from external and internal parasites.
- (c) The animal **MUST** be accompanied by a **Veterinary Health Certificate** from the country of origin must be presented within 48 hours of arrival in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to a licensed Veterinarian for an examination.
 - (d) Animals **MUST** be microchipped (Avid, Trovan, HomeAgain etc.)
 - (e) The **IMP1(B)** form should be signed within 48 hours prior to arrival by a **Licensed Veterinarian** ensuring all import requirements are met.

Animals not meeting Import Requirements WILL NOT be allowed to enter the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and subjected to penalties according to the legislation of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

The Permit is valid for one (1) Entry ONLY within one (1) Year from the date of issue unless otherwise reflected on the Import Permit.

Requirements for the entry for all other types of animals not mentioned above may be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Services Unit, Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas. **Applications should state the kind of animal (species), breed, age (year/month), sex, countries the animal(s) visited within the immediate 6 months**

prior to arrival in The Bahamas, island(s) visiting while in The Bahamas, any expected in-transit countries and country of origin.

Additional information may be required if, for example, the animal or animal product is listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

N.B. Customs Duty for permanent entry of all animals from outside the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (dogs, cats, cattle, and horses) can apply.

The following *pure breed dogs* and their mixes listed below are **not allowed** entry in the Bahamas:

1. Pitbull
2. Presa Canario
3. Cane Corso
4. American Bully
5. Staffordshire Terrier
6. Dogo Argentino

The following *pure breed cats* and their mixes listed below are **not allowed** entry in the Bahamas:

1. Savannah Cat
2. Bengal Cat
3. Chausie

Reviewed June 2018