

Permanent Change of Station (PCS) with Pets to Republic of Korea

For the most current information on PCSing with pets, please see information from the following services:

- **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).** <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/by-country/pettravel-korea>.
- **Korean Quarantine Inspection Agency (QIA).** https://www.qia.go.kr/english/html/Animal_livestock/02AnimalLivestock_007-8.jsp. NOTE: This website does not work on government computers.
- **Specific airline used for travel.**
- **Army Public Health Center.** <https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/animed/vtfo/Pages/Animal-Import.aspx>. This is intended to serve as a guide. The pet owner is responsible for ensuring their pet meets all importation and shipping requirements as put forth by the USDA, QIA, and airline.
- **106th Medical Detachment Veterinary Service Support (106th MED DET VSS):** <https://phc.amedd.army.mil/organization/Pages/VtfByLocation.aspx?loc=korea> or DSN (315) 737-9720/9721, Commercial 011-82-503-337-9720/9721.

General Information:

- Care for pets at military veterinary treatment facilities (VTF) is limited and primarily provides routine preventive medical and surgical care. Emergency care is not available at military VTFs and civilian veterinary clinics are limited in some areas.
- Only 2 pets (cats and dogs only) are authorized transport in the event of a non-combatant evacuation operation (NEO) in Korea. Every attempt will be made to transport pets in the event of NEO, but pets are not guaranteed transport.
- All pets must be registered at the installation VTF within 10 days of arriving in Korea.
- **Not all housing areas allow pets.** When assigned housing in pet restricted areas, service members that have brought pets have been required to find new owners/pet housing arrangements (including shipping them back to the states).
- Customs clearance is required upon entry into Korea. Service members must present travel orders and pet documentation at the Customs desk to request the SOFA import tax waiver. Pets imported more than 6 months after initial entry will be assessed an import duty.
- Pets shipped separate from the service member or their family may incur additional costs (quarantine & customs fees paid in cash, Korean Currency of Won) when they travel as air cargo. Owners should discuss the details of these costs with the transportation broker prior to shipment. Shipping pets into the country as cargo separate from service member will occur more expenses and time; it takes a significantly longer time for them to arrive as cargo.
- It is possible to bring a pet into Korea without meeting the importation requirements (microchip, rabies vaccination, and rabies antibody testing). **HOWEVER, we strongly recommend completing all these requirements prior to travel to avoid costly fees and quarantine of the pet at your expense. Contact the quarantine facility in advance to ensure there is space (Osan Pet Lodge/All Paws Osan Pet Care – DSN 315-784-4314 or COMM 82-10-5663-1304; Osan AB VTF – DSN 315-784-6614). THERE IS A SMALL RISK YOUR PET MAY BE RETURNED TO THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AT THE DISCRETION OF QIA.**

- **Common issues seen with pet importation:**
 - Improperly performed or incomplete health certificate. Make sure your health certificate is **original** (blue ink signature) AND **endorsed** by the USDA or military veterinarian.
 - FAVN issues including not having a FAVN performed, original FAVN results not available, FAVN performed at an unauthorized laboratory, or FAVN titer too low. Make sure your veterinarian is using an appropriate laboratory and that you are planning far enough in advance that you can receive your FAVN results.
 - NOTE: If your pet is granted quarantine, it will be at your expense. Your pet cannot leave the quarantine facility during this period (i.e. they CANNOT quarantine with you). Quarantine costs an average of \$20-50 per day. Additional FAVN testing will cost a minimum of \$250 and results can take up to one to three weeks to receive. Health certificate reissues and/or endorsement cost \$52 minimum.

Pet Travel Requirements from USA/CONUS to Republic of Korea:

- **Original complete USDA health certificate**
 - “Veterinary Health Certificate for Export of Dogs and Cats from the United States of America to Korea” at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/health-certificates/non-eu/korea-dog-cat.pdf>) issued by an USDA accredited veterinarian and endorsed by a USDA APHIS Veterinary Medical Officer or Military/GS veterinarian.
 - **All health certificates must include original signatures (in blue ink), no copies will be accepted.**
- **ISO Complaint Microchip (ISO 11784 or 11785)**
 - Required for all dog and cats regardless of age. If the microchip cannot be implanted prior to travel, it can be done after arrival in Korea, but will result in quarantine of the animal at the owners’ expense.
 - Pets who have a microchip that is not an ISO compliant microchip should have one placed prior to travel (list both microchips on the health certificate) OR the owner must transport a microchip reader.
 - Ensure the microchip number(s) in your pet match that on the health certificate, rabies certificate, and rabies antibody test.
- **Rabies Vaccination**
 - Required for pets over 90 days old. Pets under 90 days old are exempt.
 - Vaccination must be current and be accompanied by a valid rabies certificate issued by the administering veterinarian.
 - **Rabies certificates must have original signatures (in blue ink).**
- **Rabies Antibody Test (FAVN or RFFIT)**
 - Only required if the pet is over 90 days old. Pets under 90 days old are exempt.
 - FAVN Test result must be >0.5 IU/mL and **original** test report must be presented. Results (to include date of results and laboratory) must be stated on the health certificate.
 - The FAVN or RFFIT must be run by an internationally approved laboratory. See the QIA website for a list of approved laboratories. In the United States, the only two authorized laboratories are the **DOD FADL** or **Kansas State University**. **DO NOT USE A DIFFERENT LABORATORY; THOSE RESULTS WILL BE REJECTED.**
 - FAVN results are only valid for two years and only if the rabies vaccine has not lapsed.
 - If the test cannot be run prior to travel, it can be done after arrival in Korea, but will result in quarantine of the animal at the owners’ expense as well as cost of the test.

Pet Travel Requirements from outside of US/CONUS area:

- Consider contacting the Korean APQA office directly or through your sponsor to confirm the travel documentation for your pet's travel.
- The same requirements above apply, except:
 - Original health certificate issued by a Military/GS veterinarian or official government veterinarian from the host nation (e.g. certificate and kennel stamp from the Japanese export veterinarian or an EU pet passport signed and stamped by a German government veterinarian) must be presented at time of entry.
 - Certain countries are considered “rabies-free” by QIA. Pets originating from these countries do not require a rabies vaccination or rabies antibody test IF they have been present in that country for the last six months.
 - Their health certificate must contain the following statement from the veterinarian: **“I certify that this (these) animal(s) were kept for more than six months prior to shipment in rabies free countries/regions (provide the name of the country/region) designated in the ROK quarantine regulations.”**
 - Check the QIA website for list of countries. This list is subject to change based on current outbreak statuses of individual countries.
 - Animals traveling from Australia or Malaysia require additional documents relating to Hendra/Vipah virus. See the QIA website.
 - List of Internationally Approved Laboratories for FAVN tests:
 - <http://www.baphiq.gov.tw/en/view.php?catid=14261>
 - <https://www.maff.go.jp/ags/animal/dog/lab.html>
 - https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/approved-labs/index_en.htm