

Relocating Your Pet to Singapore

A practical guide for importing dogs and cats, including rabies categories, permits, quarantine, Changi clearance and residential restrictions.

Personally managed by Julia | Fly Your Tail



Singapore uses three rabies-risk schedules.

The export country determines vaccination, rabies-serology and quarantine requirements. The process also includes pet licensing, an AVS import licence, a Customs GST permit, an inspection appointment and clearance through an AVS-recognised pet agent.

www.flyyourtail.com

The essentials before you begin

Singapore's Animal and Veterinary Service classifies export countries and regions according to rabies risk. The applicable schedule controls the veterinary preparation and quarantine pathway.

Minimum age	Dogs and cats must be at least 12 weeks old at the time of export.
Microchip	An ISO 11784 or ISO 11785 Annex A microchip is required, and the number must appear on vaccination and treatment records.
Pet licence	A Singapore dog or cat licence must be obtained in PALS before applying for the import licence.
Import licence	The AVS import licence is valid for 90 days and currently costs S\$50 for normal service or S\$100 for express service.
Customs permit	A Customs In-Payment GST permit is required before arrival and is normally arranged through a local forwarding agent.
Inspection	An AVS border-control inspection must be booked at least 5 days before arrival.

Breed and housing restrictions

- Prohibited dog breeds include Pit Bull types, Akita, Boerboel, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Neapolitan Mastiff, Tosa and Perro de Presa Canario, including specified crosses.
- First- to fourth-generation Bengal and Savannah cat crosses are prohibited; documentary proof is required for fifth-generation or later crosses.
- HDB flats currently permit up to 2 cats and generally 1 approved non-specified dog.
- Non-HDB premises generally allow up to 3 cats or dogs in total, with only 1 specified dog.
- Check the residence rules before beginning the import process.

A pet can satisfy veterinary rules but still be unsuitable for the intended residence.

Breed and housing eligibility should be confirmed before committing to testing, flights or quarantine.

Your export country determines the pathway

Schedule	Examples	Main implications
Schedule I	Australia, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom	No rabies vaccination or serology requirement under the standard conditions; no post-arrival quarantine when fully compliant.
Schedule II	Most EU countries, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, USA and other listed regions	Rabies vaccination and serology required. Personal imports may avoid quarantine when owner-travel and 6-month co-residence conditions are met.
Schedule III	All countries not listed in Schedule I or II	Rabies vaccination and serology required, plus at least 30 days of quarantine at AQC and rabies vaccination on arrival.

Schedule II quarantine rules

- No post-arrival quarantine is required for a personal pet when it enters Singapore less than 5 days from the owner's entry and has lived continuously at the same residential address as the owner for more than 6 months before import.
- A minimum 10-day home quarantine applies to a personal import that does not satisfy those conditions, subject to approval.
- Approved home quarantine uses smart collar tags, with a published charge of S\$29 per animal per day or part thereof.
- A minimum 10-day stay at the Animal Quarantine Centre applies to pets imported under a commercial import licence.

Country lists can change.

Recheck the current AVS schedule close to travel rather than relying on an older quotation or previous case.

Step-by-step relocation pathway

1**Confirm schedule, breed and residence eligibility**

Identify the current rabies-risk schedule and confirm that the pet can legally be imported and kept at the intended address.

2**Microchip and vaccinations**

Ensure the ISO microchip and valid dog or cat core vaccinations are recorded consistently.

3**Rabies vaccination and serology**

For Schedule II and III pets, maintain a valid rabies vaccination and complete the serology test in the required window.

4**Reserve quarantine if required**

Book AQC through QMS for Schedule III or commercial cases, or obtain home-quarantine approval for an eligible Schedule II personal import.

5**Obtain the Singapore pet licence**

Apply for the dog or cat licence through the Pet Animal Licensing System.

6**Apply for the AVS import licence**

Apply within 90 days of arrival using the personal or commercial licence appropriate to the movement.

7**Arrange Customs and inspection**

Obtain the Customs GST permit and book the AVS border inspection at least 5 days before arrival.

8**Final veterinary preparation**

Between 2 and 7 days before export, complete parasite treatments, the veterinary health certificate and government endorsement.

9**Travel and Singapore clearance**

Present the import licence at check-in and complete CAPQ or land-border clearance through the appointed AVS-recognised pet agent.

VETERINARY PREPARATION

Vaccinations, serology and health certification

Core vaccination requirements

- Dogs: canine distemper virus
- Dogs: canine adenovirus type 1
- Dogs: canine parvovirus type 2
- Cats: feline calicivirus
- Cats: feline herpesvirus-1
- Cats: feline panleukopaemia

Rabies requirements for Schedule II and III

- Valid inactivated or recombinant rabies vaccination acceptable to AVS
- Blood sampling at least 28 days after a valid rabies vaccination
- Sampling at least 90 days and within 12 months before export
- Testing at a WOA reference laboratory or another laboratory accepted under AVS rules
- Original laboratory report available at clearance
- Microchip number consistent across vaccination and laboratory documents

Final 2- to 7-day window

- The pet undergoes internal and external parasite treatments.
- A private veterinarian completes the relevant sections of the official Singapore veterinary health certificate.
- The exporting country's official government veterinarian endorses the certificate.
- The certificate confirms that the pet is clinically healthy, free from signs of contagious disease and fit to travel.
- Schedule I and II pets also require the airline-endorsed captain's declaration specified in the veterinary conditions.

The certificate window is narrow.

Build the government endorsement and airline check-in schedule around the 2- to 7-day export window, accounting for weekends and public holidays.

QUARANTINE

Home quarantine and the Animal Quarantine Centre

Home quarantine

- Available only for qualifying Schedule II personal imports and subject to AVS approval.
- Apply before the import licence; AVS states that applications are generally attended to within 5 working days.
- The licence holder must comply with the home-quarantine conditions.
- Smart collar tags may be used to verify that the animal remains at the approved premises.

Animal Quarantine Centre

- Schedule III pets require at least 30 days at AQC and receive rabies vaccination on arrival.
- Commercial Schedule II imports require at least 10 days at AQC.
- Reserve space through the Quarantine Management System after the serology result is available.
- A non-refundable deposit equal to 10 days' quarantine fees plus border-to-AQC transport is payable upon confirmation.
- As published for the period before 1 December 2026, accommodation is S\$26 per day for a fan room or S\$35 per day for an air-conditioned room.
- From 1 December 2026, published accommodation rates increase to S\$36 and S\$44 per day respectively.
- The current transfer charge from CAPQ or Tuas to AQC is S\$75 per pet; the Schedule III rabies vaccination fee is S\$68.

Quarantine capacity is limited.

Reserve early. A flight should not be finalised until the quarantine dates and arrival arrangements are compatible.

Cabin, excess baggage or manifested cargo

Method	Airline arrangement	Singapore clearance
In cabin or excess baggage	Permitted only when the airline and route accept the pet. A rigid IATA-compliant hard crate must also be provided for transfer to CAPQ; soft bags are not accepted for that transfer.	After landing, the pet is handed to Lost & Found and moved by the ground handler to CAPQ. The owner may not remove the pet from the passenger customs area.
Manifested cargo	The pet travels under an air waybill and is handled through the airline cargo system.	The ground handler transfers the pet directly from the aircraft to CAPQ. The agent presents the air waybill and original documents.

Mandatory recognised-agent clearance

- From 1 April 2026, personal-pet import clearance at CAPQ must be handled through an AVS-recognised pet agent.
- The recognised-agent list is a reference list and does not constitute government endorsement of individual companies.
- The appointed agent presents the import licence, original health certificate, vaccination records, rabies serology result and other transport documents.
- Pets arriving outside CAPQ operating hours may remain in the ground handler's animal holding area until the next working day.

Inspection documents

- AVS import licence
- Government-endorsed original veterinary health certificate
- Original vaccination records
- Original rabies serology report where applicable
- Captain's declaration where applicable
- Air waybill for cargo imports
- Customs In-Payment GST permit

Singapore clearance is not completed in the passenger terminal.

Even cabin and excess-baggage pets are transferred to CAPQ for formal inspection before release or quarantine.

RISK CONTROL

Common mistakes that delay Singapore imports

Using the wrong schedule: Rabies and quarantine requirements depend on the current country classification.

Ignoring residence restrictions: A prohibited breed or an HDB-ineligible dog may not be permitted at the intended home.

Applying for the import licence before the pet licence: The PALS dog or cat licence must be obtained first.

Missing the serology window: The sample must be at least 90 days and no more than 12 months before export.

Late quarantine booking: AQC spaces can be limited and the booking requires vaccination and serology documents.

No Customs GST permit: The pet cannot be smoothly released without the customs authorisation.

No inspection appointment: The booking is required at least 5 days before arrival; unbooked inspection attracts an hourly charge.

Wrong final-certificate timing: Parasite treatment and the health certificate must fall within the 2- to 7-day window.

Arriving without a recognised agent: CAPQ clearance for personal pets must be handled by an AVS-recognised pet agent.

Bringing only a soft cabin carrier: A rigid compliant crate is required for transfer to CAPQ.

Before booking, confirm these 10 points

- The current AVS schedule for the export country is confirmed.
- The species, breed and intended residence are eligible.
- The ISO microchip and vaccination records are consistent.
- Rabies vaccination and serology satisfy the applicable schedule.
- Any home or AQC quarantine has been approved and reserved.
- The Singapore pet licence and AVS import licence are issued.
- The Customs GST permit and inspection appointment are arranged.
- The final certificate and parasite-treatment appointments are correctly timed.
- The airline accepts the pet, route and rigid travel container.
- An AVS-recognised pet agent is appointed for arrival clearance.

How we support a Singapore relocation

Fly Your Tail can coordinate the complete import or selected specialist stages. Every case is personally managed by Julia, with one point of contact across veterinary preparation, permits, transport, quarantine and clearance.

- AVS schedule, breed and residence eligibility assessment
- Microchip, vaccination and rabies-serology timeline
- International RNATT sample-logistics coordination
- Home-quarantine or AQC reservation support
- PALS pet licence and AVS import-licence planning
- Customs GST permit and recognised-agent coordination
- Government health-certificate preparation and review
- Cabin, excess-baggage or manifested-cargo route assessment
- Rigid kennel sizing and airline compliance review
- CAPQ inspection, quarantine transfer and final-delivery coordination

Planning a move to Singapore?

Send Fly Your Tail your pet's species, breed, age, weight, measurements, current country, intended Singapore residence, vaccination history and target travel date for an individual assessment.

Official references used for this guide

AVS - Importing dogs and cats

<https://avs.nparks.gov.sg/pets/importing-exporting-a-pet/import/dogs-and-cats/>

AVS - Changi Animal & Plant Quarantine Station

<https://avs.nparks.gov.sg/about-us/our-centres/changi-animal-plant-quarantine-station/>

AVS - Animal Quarantine Centre

<https://avs.nparks.gov.sg/about-us/our-centres/animal-quarantine-centre/>

AVS - Quarantine Management System

<https://avs.nparks.gov.sg/pets/importing-exporting-a-pet/import/quarantine-management-system/>

AVS - List of recognised pet agents

<https://avs.nparks.gov.sg/outreach/resources/avs-recognised-pet-agents/>

PALS - Pet Animal Licensing System

<https://pals.avs.gov.sg/>

Important disclaimer

This guide is general information prepared in August 2026. Singapore rabies-risk schedules, veterinary conditions, quarantine charges, airline policies, housing rules and clearance procedures can change. The current AVS veterinary conditions, import licence, quarantine approval and official health certificate take precedence. Fly Your Tail verifies the applicable requirements for every individual case before travel.