

Relocating Your Pet to Vietnam



A practical guide for importing dogs and cats, including veterinary documents, quarantine procedures, airline options and arrival clearance.

Personally managed by Julia | Fly Your Tail

Vietnam requires animal-quarantine clearance at entry.

Dogs and cats must travel with an official veterinary quarantine or health certificate issued by the exporting country. The arrival process differs depending on whether the pet travels with the passenger or enters as manifested cargo.

www.flyyourtail.com

The essentials before you begin

Vietnam's border animal-quarantine authority checks imported dogs and cats before release. The official export-country certificate, the animal's health and the method of transport determine how the clearance is handled.

Official certificate	An original veterinary quarantine or health certificate from the competent authority in the country of export is required.
Rabies vaccination	A valid rabies vaccination is normally expected for dogs and cats and is commonly required by airlines and the exporting authority.
Microchip	Permanent microchip identification is strongly recommended and may be required by the airline, export country or transit route.
Routine quarantine	Healthy pets with compliant documents are generally inspected and released without a routine post-arrival quarantine stay.
Entry procedure	Pets carried with the passenger are registered with the border animal-quarantine authority on arrival. Cargo imports normally require advance quarantine registration and destination handling.
Travel options	Depending on the airline and route, a pet may travel in cabin, as accompanied baggage or as manifested cargo.

What happens if the documents are not accepted?

- The pet may be temporarily held while the authorities review or verify the documents.
- A clinical concern can lead to sampling, additional veterinary measures or isolation.
- An invalid export-country certificate can result in temporary seizure and further action under Vietnamese veterinary rules.
- Costs arising from storage, testing, treatment, return transport or other corrective action are normally the owner's responsibility.

Document review before departure is essential.

The safest approach is to confirm the certificate format, arrival airport and handling procedure before the pet leaves the country of export.

Accompanied pet or manifested cargo?

Method	How it works	Vietnam arrival process
In cabin	A small pet travels in an airline-approved carrier in the passenger cabin when the airline and route permit it.	The pet remains subject to animal-quarantine inspection and customs procedures at the first Vietnamese international airport.
Accompanied baggage	The pet travels in the aircraft hold on the owner's passenger booking when offered by the airline.	The owner or representative presents the export-country certificate and completes border quarantine clearance after arrival.
Manifested cargo	The pet travels under an air waybill through the airline cargo system.	Advance quarantine registration, cargo handling, customs formalities and a receiving agent are normally coordinated before arrival.

Important airline considerations

- Not every airline accepts pets to Vietnam by every method.
- Cabin and accompanied-baggage acceptance depends on route, aircraft, pet size, breed and transit country.
- Large pets, unaccompanied pets and some routes require manifested cargo.
- Brachycephalic breeds may face additional restrictions or seasonal embargoes.
- The airline makes the final decision on the travel kennel and pet acceptance.

The easiest-looking route is not always the viable route.

Fly Your Tail compares the available airlines, transit restrictions, aircraft and arrival handling before recommending a transport plan.

VETERINARY PREPARATION

Health documents, vaccination and identification

Core preparation	Additional items that may apply
• Readable microchip or other permanent identification • Valid rabies vaccination • Routine canine or feline vaccinations appropriate to age • Clinical examination before departure • Original official veterinary quarantine or health certificate • Vaccination record or pet passport	• Government endorsement in the country of export • Parasite treatment required by the airline or export authority • Additional certificates required by a transit country • Breed-specific airline documentation • Medication letter for pets travelling with prescribed treatment • Import quarantine registration for cargo or larger consignments

Certificate content

- Owner or consignor and consignee details
- Pet species, breed, sex, age, colour and identifying marks
- Microchip number where applicable
- Rabies and other vaccination details
- Clinical health statement
- Country of origin, transport details and destination
- Official signature, stamp and date of issue

Certificate validity is route-specific.

Vietnamese quarantine, the export-country authority and the airline may apply different timing rules. Fly Your Tail confirms the usable certificate window for the planned journey.

Step-by-step relocation pathway

1**Assess the route and travel method**

Confirm the pet's size, breed, country of origin, destination city, airline options and whether the journey will be accompanied or cargo.

2**Review identification and vaccination records**

Fly Your Tail checks the microchip, rabies vaccination and supporting records before the final certificate is prepared.

3**Confirm the quarantine procedure**

The appropriate arrival authority and documentation process are confirmed for the selected airport and travel method.

4**Arrange the airline booking**

Cabin, baggage or cargo space is requested, subject to airline approval.

5**Prepare the travel kennel**

The carrier or kennel is reviewed against the airline's requirements and applicable IATA Live Animals Regulations.

6**Complete the veterinary certificate**

The veterinarian and competent authority complete the official export documentation within the applicable validity period.

7**Prepare arrival handling**

For cargo, the air waybill, receiving agent, customs and quarantine files are arranged before departure.

8**Travel to Vietnam**

The pet travels under the approved airline arrangement with the required original documents.

9**Inspection and release**

The border quarantine officer reviews the documents, clinically checks the pet and issues the import quarantine clearance when the requirements are met.

ARRIVAL IN VIETNAM

Border quarantine, customs and collection

Accompanied pets

- The pet and original veterinary certificate are presented to the animal-quarantine authority at the international border gate.
- The officer compares the documents with the animal and performs a clinical inspection.
- When the certificate and health conditions are satisfactory, an import quarantine certificate or clearance is issued.
- Customs formalities are then completed before the pet leaves the controlled airport area.

Manifested-cargo pets

- The pet arrives at the airline cargo terminal under an air waybill.
- The receiving agent submits the quarantine declaration, export-country certificate and supporting documents.
- The border quarantine authority inspects the animal and documentation.
- Cargo-terminal and customs release procedures are completed after veterinary clearance.
- The pet is collected from the terminal or delivered to the final address where included in the service.

Major international gateways

- Noi Bai International Airport for Hanoi and northern Vietnam
- Tan Son Nhat International Airport for Ho Chi Minh City and southern Vietnam
- Da Nang International Airport for central Vietnam, subject to airline and live-animal handling availability
- Other airports or land borders may be possible only when the necessary quarantine and carrier arrangements are available

Arrival facilities and operational procedures can change.

The chosen airport must be reconfirmed for the specific airline, travel method and date before the flight is booked.

AFTER ARRIVAL

Settling your pet into Vietnam

Local veterinary care

- Register with a reputable local veterinary clinic soon after arrival.
- Keep the rabies vaccination current and retain the import certificate and all original records.
- Discuss parasite prevention for fleas, ticks, heartworm and intestinal worms with the local veterinarian.
- Use only veterinarian-approved products suitable for the pet's species, age and weight.

Climate and daily life

- Vietnam's heat and humidity can be difficult for brachycephalic, senior, overweight and thick-coated pets.
- Avoid intense exercise during the hottest parts of the day and provide constant access to water and shade.
- Introduce the pet gradually to traffic noise, motorbikes, lifts and unfamiliar street animals.
- Use secure leads, harnesses and carriers, particularly during the first weeks after arrival.

Housing and local rules

- Check that the landlord, condominium or housing compound accepts the pet and breed.
- Local management rules can regulate lifts, common areas, noise and waste disposal.
- Dogs should be kept under control in public and vaccinated in accordance with veterinary requirements.
- Keep digital and paper copies of the pet's identification, vaccination and import documents.

Plan the home as carefully as the flight.

Confirm pet-friendly housing, nearby veterinary care and safe local transport before the pet arrives.

RISK CONTROL

Common mistakes that delay Vietnam imports

Travelling without the original official certificate: A vaccination booklet alone may not satisfy border quarantine.

Assuming no advance arrangement is needed for cargo: Manifested-cargo imports normally require advance coordination with quarantine, cargo and customs.

Using an incorrect or expired certificate: The document must be valid for the actual flight and accepted by the airline and Vietnamese authority.

Microchip inconsistencies: The identity number should match the vaccination record, certificate and airline booking.

Booking a route before checking pet acceptance: An airline or transit airport may refuse the breed, kennel or travel method.

Arriving outside handling hours: Cargo release can be delayed if quarantine, customs or terminal services are unavailable.

Using an unsuitable travel kennel: The airline can refuse the pet at check-in or cargo acceptance.

Sedating the pet: Sedation is generally discouraged and may lead to airline refusal or health complications.

No destination agent for cargo: The pet cannot be released smoothly without an authorised person coordinating the arrival procedures.

Your Vietnam relocation checklist

- Airline and travel method confirmed
- Arrival airport and quarantine procedure confirmed
- Microchip and vaccination records checked
- Rabies vaccination valid
- Official export-country certificate scheduled
- Transit-country requirements checked
- Travel kennel approved by the airline
- Original documents prepared
- Cargo agent and customs handling arranged where required
- Pet-friendly housing and local veterinary care identified

How we support a Vietnam relocation

Fly Your Tail can coordinate the complete journey or selected stages. Every case is personally managed by Julia, with one point of contact across veterinary documents, airline planning and arrival clearance.

- Route, airline and travel-method assessment
- Microchip and vaccination-record review
- Export veterinary-certificate instructions
- Transit-country and airline-document review
- Cabin, accompanied-baggage or manifested-cargo planning
- Travel-kennel sizing and compliance review
- Advance quarantine coordination for cargo imports
- Air waybill, customs and destination-agent coordination
- Noi Bai, Tan Son Nhat or other available entry-point planning
- Travel-day monitoring and final delivery where included

Planning a move to Vietnam?

Send Fly Your Tail your pet's species, breed, age, weight, measurements, current country, vaccination history, destination city and preferred travel date for an individual assessment.

Official references used for this guide

Vietnam Department of Animal Health - Animal quarantine procedures

<https://cucthuy.gov.vn/tthc/kiem-dich-dong-vat>

Circular 01/2026/TT-BNNMT - Terrestrial animal and animal-product quarantine

<https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/EN/Linh-vuc-khac/Circular-01-2026-TT-BNNMT-terrestrial-animal-product-quarantine/693953/tieng-anh.aspx>

Vietnam Customs - Quarantine for passenger-carried animals and goods

<https://www.customs.gov.vn/index.jsp?aid=206381&cid=4109&pageId=2281>

Ministry of Agriculture and Environment - Veterinary administrative procedures

<https://en.mae.gov.vn/delegating-9-livestock-and-veterinary-procedures-to-provincial-authorities-9372.htm>

Important disclaimer

This guide is general information prepared in August 2026. Vietnamese quarantine procedures, administrative responsibilities, airline policies, airport handling and document formats can change. The current instructions of the border animal-quarantine authority, the official export-country certificate and the airline's approval take precedence. Fly Your Tail verifies the applicable requirements for every individual case before travel.