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Pets

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Bringing Your Pet to Japan

If your pet is a bona-fide member of the family, then you should do everything possible to bring your pet to Japan. The process for importing your pet may be a little time consuming (depending on what country you are coming from). But in the end, it will be well worth your time and effort to have

your beloved pet accompany you and your family to your new international home.

For your pet's well being, please consult with your regular vet well in advance of relocating to Japan to determine whether or not your pet should accompany you. If you decide to bring your pet, make sure you bring its medical records so your new veterinarian can review them if need be.

Useful Japanese Vocabulary: **Pets**

inu 犬	dog
neko ネコ	cat
dobutsu 動物	animal
kan-satsu 観察	dog tag
mayoi-inu 迷い犬	lost pet (dog)
juい 獣医	veterinarian
dobutsu kanri senta 動物管理センター	administration/control center (pound)
hokensho 保健所	public health office (including control of stray animals)
ken-eki 検疫	quarantine
kenko shin-dan shomei-sho 健康診断証明書	health certificate
ketsueki kensa 血液検査	blood test
mushi kudashi kusuri 虫くだし薬	de-worming medicine
kosei-bushitsu 抗生物質	antibiotic
haku (oto) 吐く(嘔吐)	vomiting
geri 下痢	diarrhea
kayumi かゆみ	itching
dekimono できもの	bump, a growth
kizu 傷	wound
kega 怪我	injury
genki ga nai 元気がない	lack of vigor
shokuyoku ga nai 食欲がない	lack of appetite
kyoken-byo (yobo-chusha) 狂犬病(予防注射)	rabies (vaccination)
kongo-wakuchin yobo-chusha 混合ワクチン予防注射 3種, 5種, 7種	combined vaccination 3,5,7 diseases

Speaking of medical care, there is no need to worry too much about medical care for pets while living in Japan. Veterinary care is good and there are many qualified vets in the Kansai area (a few even speak English).

There are some differences in the standards and norms expected of pet owners in Japan. For example, renting a home or an apartment may be a little more difficult to come by as some owners are not too keen on renting to tenants with pets. So always inform your real estate or company representative of your pet situation prior to relocating to Japan.

Importing Pets

As stated earlier, bringing a pet into Japan requires advance planning, extreme organization (keep a file so you can store important information and required documents), a great deal of patience, and adherence to the strict importing guidelines established by the **Japanese Animal Quarantine Service** (otherwise known as **AQS**), a division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries of Japan. Importing guidelines not only cover dogs and cats, but also more unusual animals including rabbits, horses and monkeys, to name a few.

If you are coming from a “rabies free” region certified by the Japanese government such as Australia, Fiji, Guam, Hawaii, Iceland, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Taiwan, and UK (Great Britain and Northern Ireland only) or from a “non-rabies free” region like North America and Canada, regulations for importing pets into Japan vary and these regulations are strictly enforced by the Animal Quarantine Service. If you are bringing your pet from a “non-rabies free” region you will be required to begin the importation process, **seven (7)**

months prior to your arrival in Japan so please plan accordingly. It is possible to complete the mandatory animal quarantine period in the country you are coming from with proper certification, but this requires prior notification and agreement by the Japanese quarantine authorities.

Upon your pet’s arrival in Japan, your dog or cat **MUST** meet all importing conditions designated by Japanese AQS in order for animal inspection/ quarantine to be completed within a 12-hour period. If all your paperwork is in order and your pet is in good health upon its arrival, the inspection by AQS could take less than one hour (it may take longer depending on the situation).

Any dog or cat not meeting any import conditions will undergo a required quarantine period (this could last up to 180 days) at a designated Animal Quarantine facility or by a professional caretaker agent. It is the importer’s responsibility to pay for any costs related to the care of the animal during quarantine. Depending on the results of the import inspection, pets may also be rejected to enter Japan and again, you would incur any costs related to your pet’s return to the exporting country.

So as you can see, it is very important that you follow all procedures precisely! If everything is in perfect order, you just might be able to bring your loving pet home shortly after it arrives in Japan.

To be successful in this effort, it is highly recommended that you review and fully understand the latest detailed guidelines and procedures listed on the Japanese Animal Quarantine Service website:

www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/im_index.html

Procedures manuals from this website can be downloaded easily to your home computer and are available in English, Chinese, and Korean. Also, all necessary importation application forms/documents can be obtained from the AQS website as well.

It is very wise to make extra copies of all required documents prior to your pet's departure to Japan.

If at any time you have questions regarding any procedures or how to complete any forms/documents, you should contact the Japanese AQS either via email, fax, or telephone (only for an emergency). Remember, the AQS is there to help you and they are very kind and willing to assist if asked.

KIX Animal Quarantine Service:

Email: ka-ken@aq.s.maff.go.jp

Fax: +81-(0)72-455-1957

Tel: +81-(0)72-455-1956

There are many quarantine facilities throughout Japan, but caretaker agents are only based at these three locations:

- Chubu International Airport (NKM)
chubumeiku@aq.s.maff.go.jp
- Kansai International Airport (KIX)
ka-ken@aq.s.maff.go.jp
- Narita International Airport (NRT)
na-ki@aq.s.maff.go.jp



If you are air shipping your pet to the Osaka/ Kobe area, be sure to specify the Kansai International Airport (KIX), so that your pet can be inspected/ quarantined there. Boarding fees vary depending on pet size. You can visit your pet at the KIX facility, Sunday to Friday 10:00-2:00 and then again 13:00-16:00. This facility is closed on Saturday.

Importing your pet is a big undertaking that can be done either by you or by contracting an animal shipping agent to assist you. But beware, these companies may charge a lot of money for their service.

If using an animal shipping agent, they will need to obtain original importation forms/documents. Some airlines may be able to recommend Japanese import agents who will, for a fee, see the animal through all necessary inspection/quarantine procedures and notify you when your pet is ready to be released once it arrives in Japan.

Regardless of how your pet is brought to Japan (via cargo or carried on as hand luggage, etc.) you must submit advance notification of the planned date of arrival, number of animals and other pertinent information to the AQS which has jurisdiction over your intended port of arrival **at least 40 days before** the pet's arrival in Japan. The required "Notification" form can be found on the Animal Quarantine Service website.

Listed are general steps for importing your pet from a "non-rabies free" region.

CHIC shall not be held responsible for any misinformation or for any problems you may encounter importing your pet to Japan. always refer to the AQS website for more detailed information regarding the required procedure and documents.

Step 1: Individual animal identification by microchip

Dogs and cats must be individually identified by an implanted microchip. The animal must be fitted with an ISO compliant (11784 and 11785) microchip that can be read by a microchip reader in Japan. Please check with a veterinarian from the country you are coming from to make sure your pet has been implanted with the proper microchip and that the correct reader can properly read the ID number.

Newly approved regulations are in effect for dogs and cats that received a rabies vaccination before being implanted with a microchip. These animals may have the time required for their import procedures reduced. Refer to the AQS website for more information on these new regulations.

Important: Upon arrival in Japan, any pets that do not have the required type of microchip will be returned to their country of origin at the importer's cost.

Step 2: Rabies vaccination

Dogs and cats must be at least 91 days old at the time of receiving a rabies vaccination. Your pet must be immunized against rabies with inactivated or recombinant vaccines at least twice after first obtaining the required ISO compliant microchip identification. The second rabies vaccination must be given more than 31 days or more after the first vaccination and within the effective period of the first vaccination.

In some cases, a single rabies vaccination does not result in sufficient immunity. Therefore, it is necessary for animals to be vaccinated at least twice, sometimes maybe more (refer to information on the AQS website).

In addition, it is highly recommended that your pet be fully immunized against

Preparations before importing your dog &/or cat:

- Microchip implantation
- Rabies vaccination
- Serological testing for rabies antibodies
- Waiting period before exporting pet after confirmation of antibody presence
- Advance notification of your pet's arrival to Japan
- Health inspection of pet before departure
- Obtain required certification from the responsible exporting country government agency

Recommended treatments and measures:

- Immunization from other diseases
- Parasite treatment (for internal and external parasites)
- Required pet carrier
- Scheduled arrival communication with appropriate Animal Quarantine Service office
- Health condition of pet for transport and quarantine

Import quarantine:

- Pet and document inspection immediately after Japan arrival
- Detention of pet (if required)

other diseases, and four days before traveling to Japan it should be treated for parasites (internal and external).

Step 3: Blood test (measurement of rabies antibody levels)

On or after your pet's second inoculation for rabies, a blood sample will be taken from your pet by a veterinarian from the country you are coming from and the blood sample must be sent to a rabies laboratory designated by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries of Japan for rabies antibody testing.

Before the blood sampling is done, check with the designated laboratory regarding its required procedures.

The date of the blood sampling, the testing laboratory and the test result shall be noted on the certificate issued by the responsible exporting country government agency. This certificate is one of several documents you will need to present to the Animal Quarantine Service.

The importer is responsible for bearing all costs relating to blood sampling and blood testing procedures.

Step 4: 180 day wait period

Japan has strict procedures in place to prevent the outbreak of rabies. If you are bringing a pet to Japan from a "non-rabies free" region a waiting period of at least 180 days is required from the date the blood sampling was taken from your pet until it can actually arrive in Japan.

If the required wait period has not taken place, your pet may be held in a quarantine facility in Japan in order to make up the rest of the required wait period. Again, the importer incurs all necessary expenses.

For both dogs and cats, to ensure that the quarantine period in Japan will only be 12 hours or less upon their arrival, you must

provide documentation that the animal has been kept only in a designated region for the past 180 days and less than two years from the time the blood sampling was taken.

Step 5: Notification of import

Send the proper notification document by fax or mail to AQS 40 days prior to your pet's arrival to Japan.

Step 6: Quarantine forms

Complete forms "A (Declaration by Importer)" and "C (Veterinary Certification/Endorsement by Official Veterinarian)" as directed, as you will need to present them to Animal Quarantine Service upon your pet's arrival in Japan.

Your pet will need to undergo a final health exam and microchip confirmation by your local vet within 48 hours prior to your departure.

Important: Both forms require an "official government stamp" from the country you are departing from. If importing from the continental United States, a USDA "Official Government Stamp" must be placed on both Form A and C. Please check with the Department of Agriculture office in your home State regarding their office hours as some may have a limited time period in which you can obtain their assistance.

Dogs & Japanese Law

Once you have successfully imported your pet to Japan, one of the first things you'll need to do is to register your dog at your local Ward Office. According to Japanese law, all dogs must be registered and a yearly fee is required.

At the time of registration, a tag is issued and it should be attached to your dog's collar. However, this is no guarantee that the authorities will notify you should your dog become lost. The

burden is on the owner to look after his/her pet and failure to register may result in a fine if your dog is taken to the local pound (*hokensho*). As an additional precaution, you should have your telephone number written clearly on the dog's collar. The number should be visible without someone having to touch your pet, as many Japanese people are wary about approaching a stray dog.

Once you have registered your pet, you will be sent a yearly notice reminding you to get a rabies vaccination for your dog and information on where this can be done. Or, you can have your own Japanese veterinarian administer this vaccination as needed.

Pet Supplies

The Japanese love their pets too and it's been said there are more pets per Japanese household than children these days. So, sources for pet supplies like regular and special dietary pet foods and paraphernalia such as leashes, collars, pets beds, toys, pet clothing, travel carriers, etc. for your home or car are abundant.

Vet Care for Pets

Before a real emergency arises, locate a veterinarian in your neighborhood that you feel will take good care of your pet. Due to the language barrier, some Japanese vets may offer minimum explanations when treating your pet however, do not hesitate to ask detailed questions. Bringing a Japanese friend with you to the vet's office to help translate will certainly help your pet and calm your nerves. Good communication between you and the vet is important in making sure your pet is getting the best medical care.

Emergency care vet service

Sometimes pets may need medical attention



after regular operating hours. Listed below are emergency locations, but remember this type of care is quite expensive.

- **Hyogo Pet Medical Center**
3-1-5 Tachibana-cho, Amagasaki, Hyogo
Tel: 06-6428-2565 (call before visiting)
Open: 10:00–13:00, 14:30–19:00, 20:00–23:00
- **Hokusetu Emergency Animal Hospital**
2-3-55, Semba-higashi, Mino, Osaka
Tel: 072-730-2199
Open: 20:00–5:00
- **Neovets Veterinary Referral Center ER-Center**
3-8-15, Nakamichi Higashinari-ku, Osaka,
Tel: 06-6977-3200 (call before visiting)
Open: 21:00–05:00
www.neovets.com/english/index.html

Spaying & neutering

The spaying and neutering of all pets is essential since the chances of finding good permanent homes for puppies and kittens are slim. Spaying reduces stress that female animals endure when in heat and eliminates the risk of uterine and mammary cancer.

Neutering males makes them less likely to roam or fight and prevents testicular cancer.

Average neutering costs

	Dogs	Cats
Female	¥20,000 – 35,000	¥15,000 – 20,000
Male	¥15,000 – 25,000	¥10,000 – 15,000

Strays that are fed at your home and considered part of your extended family should also be brought to a vet (if possible) for spaying. Some vets often offer a discounted fee for helping these “part-time” pets.

Heat stress

In Japan, summertime can be very hard on animals. Regardless of your pet’s breed or age, it is best to exercise your dog early in the morning and in the evening when it’s much cooler. At midday, hot pavement can burn an animal’s paws. Some pet stores now sell dog shoes (or protective booties) for your pet for this reason. Always ensure your pet has access to fresh drinking water and a shady place to rest. Never leave your dog in a parked vehicle, even with the windows open. A car can become an oven within minutes. If you think your animal is overheated, quickly place wet towels over its body and spray your pet with cool water. As soon as possible, carefully

move the animal to a cool, shady area. Remember, heat stroke can kill an animal in as little as ten minutes.

Lost Pet

Immediately inquire at your local police station if you lose your pet. However, you can probably expect a cool response because lost animals are classified as lost property and are not treated specially. You should also telephone your local area’s pound and those of your surrounding area as your pet may have traveled far from home. If your pet is missing, contact the Animal Collection/ Control Centers listed here. No matter what they tell you over the phone, it is best to go to these centers to look for your pet. Japanese law requires that stray dogs be kept for three days before being put down. Some local cities may keep a stray pet a little longer, but no more than seven days. So time is of the essence when searching for your lost pet.

It’s also beneficial to make and distribute posters with large, simple words in English as well as in Japanese. Include a photo of your pet, its name, age, sex, special markings, when and where it went missing and your phone number (and that of a Japanese friend, if possible). You may wish to offer a reward. Posters can often be displayed on bus stop poles, in local shops, at vet offices, at subway stations and other public places. It’s also a good idea to ask neighbors to check their

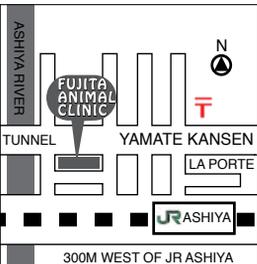


FUJITA ANIMAL CLINIC

0797-31-6500

3-19 MATSUNOUCHI-CHO, ASHIYA

Weekdays	9am-12pm 4pm-7pm <small>(1pm - 4pm by appointment for visit or operations)</small>
Saturdays	9am-1pm
Closed	Sundays & Holidays



300M WEST OF JR ASHIYA

garages and gardens in case your pet has been inadvertently locked in. Quickly place an ad in the Lost & Found section of local papers and city newsletters. Don't give up hope and don't give up looking for your pet. Missing animals have been happily reunited with their owners after many months of searching.

Animal Collection/Control Centers

Hyogo Prefecture Dobutsu

Kanri Centers:

Kobe City: 078-741-8111

Ashiya City: 0797-32-0707

Nishinomiya City: 0798-81-1220

Amagasaki City: 06-6432-4599

Himeji City: 0792-81-9741

Osaka Prefecture Dobutsu

Kanri Centers:

Osaka City: 06-6685-7300

Mino (North Osaka area): 0727-29-3233

Traveling With Your Pet

Some small pets (those 10 kilograms and under) can sometimes be seen traveling on trains with their owner. If your pet is well behaved and meets the required weight restrictions, it can ride on the JR, Hankyu, Hanshin and Shinkansen lines. A special pet ticket can be purchased for 270 yen, but the size of your pet carrier must meet established size requirements as well: 70cm maximum width and 90cm maximum length. When in doubt, always check with the railway authorities before traveling with your pet.

If traveling within Japan, ANA or JAL airlines allow pets 10kilos and under to accompany you for a cost of ¥5,000 per pet. The pet carrier size can be no bigger than: 63cm x 90cm x 67cm. If you have any questions, please contact these airlines directly.

Boarding kennels & pet hotels

Many veterinarians have boarding facilities and you may also find some pet hotels located within the area in which you live. However, since there are no laws regulating them, many charge very high rates and put animals into tiny cages with little or no place for exercise. Before leaving your pet at one of these places, visit and cast a critical eye over any under consideration well in advance of a planned vacation or business trip. Once you have found the perfect boarding kennel or pet hotel make sure you book a reservation early for your pet, especially during holiday periods. If possible, board your pet for a trial visit overnight. Boarding costs vary depending on the size of dog and sometimes by the length of its stay at the kennel. There's usually one set boarding fee for cats (size is not a determination).

ARK and PAWS (see next section) are two wonderfully caring and reputable boarding facilities to consider using to board your pet while you are away.

Pet Adoptions

If you decide not to bring a pet with you, but want one once you're here there are plenty of locations to obtain a new furry friend. There are pedigree breeders, pet shops, and animal shelters where pets can be purchased or adopted. One wonderful source for pet adoptions just north of Osaka is **Animal Refuge Kansai (ARK)**. **ARK** is operated by its founder, Elizabeth Oliver, and is staffed mainly by volunteers who adore animals and who care for the many cats and dogs that are hoping to find a good home. So, **ARK** is a great place to find a new pet!

Animal Organizations

Animal Refuge Kansai (ARK)

This non-profit organization works to alleviate the chronic problems of neglect, abuse, abandonment and uncontrolled reproduction of pets in Japan. ARK cares for about 200 dogs and around 140 cats at its sanctuary located in Nose, Osaka Prefecture. If you love animals, then this is the place for you. ARK is always looking for volunteers so give them a call and inquire about opportunities.

Animal Refuge Kansai (ARK)

595 Noma Ohara, Nose-cho
Toyono-gun, Osaka-fu 563-0131
Tel: 072-737-0712
Fax: 072-737-1886
ark@arbark.net
www.arbark.net

Adoption Appointments: 10:00-15:00

Visiting Hours: 10:00-16:00

Office Hours: 10:00-17:00

(Closed Wednesdays)

Please call for an appointment

Helping ARK

- **Become a Member** – members receive regular information regarding ARK and the quarterly newsletter, *A Voice for Animals*.
- **Volunteer** - ARK always needs volunteers to help care for the animals. Duties may include dog walking, cat cuddling, grooming assistants, etc., and also helping with office work and other chores. For more details call the ARK Volunteer Coordinator.
- **Sponsor a Pet** – If you are only here for a limited period and are unable to adopt a homeless animal, why not consider sponsoring one from ARK? They have many

Pet Etiquette

Walking your dog &/or letting your cat outside in public

For the safety of your dog and for those people walking near you never let your pet off its leash when it is out in public. Dogs can become aggressive for many reasons and it's best to avoid an unpleasant and unsafe situation.

If your pet is especially large, some people may be frightened when they see it. So, it's always best to stay within the law and keep it on a leash when going for a walk together. Depending upon where you live, there may be some local dog cafés you can visit with your pooch so you can meet other pet lovers and there may be some “doggie parks” in your area where your pet can run off the leash and have some fun with friendly dogs.

House cats are allowed to roam freely

outside the home and garden. However, they may face outdoor dangers such as traffic or they may become victim to a private cat-catcher. And remember, it certainly isn't neighborly have your cat dirtying your neighbor's garden.

Pets in an elevator

If you have a pet with you, especially a large dog, ask permission from the other people in the elevator before boarding. Small children or elderly people may feel uncomfortable being in close contact with a big and unfamiliar animal.

Cleaning up after your pet

By law you must clean up after your dog when taking it for a walk around the neighborhood. Most Japanese carry with them a little bag with a scoop and a few plastic bags.

“special” animals such as older animals or those with disabilities that have little chance of finding a good home and will probably have to live at ARK for the rest of their lives. You can make a difference in an animal’s life by becoming a sponsor.

Pets All Welcome Station (PAWS)

PAWS is definitely a favorite place to board pets in Kansai, and in fact the entire country. Many pets are sent by airplane for their “own” vacation at PAWS while their families are on holiday. Dogs have individual areas with indoor and outdoor areas for exercise and cats are housed in separate quarters. This facility is somewhat spacious and is located in a country-like setting just north of Nishinomiya. Urs and Miyoko Pfenninger have been operating PAWS for many years and have a great deal of experience caring for animals.

English, Japanese, German, and French spoken.

Tel: 0798-71-8053

Fax: 0798-74-2223

Website in Japanese and English

www.pawsjp.com

Emergency Planning

Preparations for potential future disasters should include a plan that includes your pet as part of your family. Ensure that you have ample pet supplies (food, bottled water, pet leashes, pet carriers, etc.) and vaccination certificates readily available. Make arrangements with family or friends about how to care for each other’s pets in the event of an emergency. Remember, most temporary housing facilities and hotels do not accept pets so it is wise to keep a list handy of hotels that would welcome you and your pet.



Exporting Pets

If you are taking your pet abroad, the animal must meet both the “exiting conditions” for Japan and the “entry conditions” for the country to which you are traveling and this may involve a certain amount of planning again. Each country has its own regulations for importing pets. It’s wise to check beforehand with the embassy or consulate of the country you are traveling to. Procedures vary, but you should always allow several months for all the necessary paperwork (if required) to be processed.

If possible, choose a direct flight and keep tabs on your pet’s whereabouts at all times. Phone several airlines and shipping agents for quotes, as prices vary. For the safety of your pet, some airlines restrict pets from flying during certain times of the year and also have strict pet carrier regulations. Always check with the airlines before making your reservations. Do not assume that the airline will automatically accept your pet. Some have a capacity limit

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Pets

on the number of pets that they can accept per flight.

To transport your pet safely, pet carriers must be IATA (*International Air Transportation Association*) approved, nose and paw-proof, well constructed, well ventilated, large enough for the animal to stand, turn around and lie down, and most importantly – escape-proof. It is helpful to have your pet become familiar with the carrier before it actually travels in it.

Clearly mark the carrier with your name, address and full address and phone number of your destination. Be sure your pet is wearing an identification tag. It is better for animals to have water but no food for at least a few hours before the flight. Water should be provided on the flight in a container that is refillable from outside the cage. Airline regulations prohibit more than one animal per cage. Exceptions may be made for very young animals, so be sure you check first. Before the actual flight, make sure your pet has a chance to exercise and go to the toilet before it is put in its carrier.

As soon as your export plans have been finalized, contact the AQS office where your animal will undergo the export quarantine health exam and submit an “Export Quarantine Application” form at least seven days prior to your intended departure date.

Your pet should undergo a health exam by your local Japanese vet before leaving Japan, but then it must be re-examined again at the Animal Quarantine Service station located at the airport on the day of your final departure. This required health check must be done prior to you and your pet checking in for the flight and boarding the airplane.

The health check by AQS could take up to an hour or longer and once this is completed you will be issued an Export Quarantine Certificate. Make sure you get to the airport in plenty of time to take care of this required exiting process.

Important: If you have an early morning flight, make sure the AQS station will be open so they can assist you with the final exporting process and health inspection of your pet. You may need to stay at the airport overnight.

If you are going on a holiday outside of Japan, it is best not to take your pet with you because your animal may be subject to export and import quarantine again.

Helpful Web Info

Health and behavior problems relating to dogs and cats can be found at www.vetinfo.com.

PACO ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Hours
Mon-Sat 9am-12pm
Mon-Fri 5pm-8pm
Closed Sun/National holidays

We speak English

078-452-2069

(Yukitaka Ueda D.V.M)
 4-2-20 Uozaki Nakamachi,
 Higashinada-ku, Kobe
 〒658-0083

