



## **Guidelines for Travelers Arriving by Sea**

**The entry of animals and animal products via yachts/boats represents one of the high risk areas for the introduction of exotic pests and diseases into St. Lucia. The major ports of entry are the Rodney Bay Marina and Marigot Bay.**

**The Veterinary and Livestock Services Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries would like to inform yachters of the following guidelines when traveling with pets.**

- A. Only animals for which a Veterinary Import Permit has been granted will be allowed to leave the vessel. Hence prior to arrival in St. Lucia pet owners with the intentions of leaving the vessel with their pets, will need to apply for an Import Permit. Application forms are available at the Division. Animals without permits shall remain on board the vessel for the entire stay of the vessel at the port of entry.**
- B. Pet owners shall apply for Transfer Permit in situations where animals will need to be transferred from one port to another for the purpose of leaving the island, for example from seaport to airport, seaport to another seaport, or airport to a seaport. Pet owners and their animals will be accompanied by officials from the Veterinary and Livestock Services Division during transfers. If the animal qualifies or meets our requirements, an Import Permit can be issued in place of a Transfer Permit.**
- C. Currently under the Animals (Diseases and Importation) Act #20 of 1955 and Amendment #15 of 1994, the importation of animals from rabies endemic countries is prohibited. The following represents our conditions for the entry of animals from rabies free territories.**
  - 1. Importation of Dogs/Cats will only be permitted directly from the countries listed in the schedule at the end of this document.**
  - 2. Permission for landing will not be granted unless a valid health certificate issued by a Veterinary Surgeon attached to the Veterinary Authority of the country in respect of animals and containing information requested is presented to the veterinary official at the port of entry.**

3. Such certificate shall state that:
  - a) Dog/Cat was born in country from which exported and has never left the country, or it has been resident in country for at least six months prior to export.
  - b) During the twelve months immediately preceding the exportation of the Dog/Cat there has been no Rabies among un-quarantined animals in country from which animal is exported.
  - c) The Dog/Cat is in good health and free from symptoms of any prescribed or any other infectious or contagious diseases.
  - d) All quarantine done in respect of animals imported into St. Lucia will be done in an approved facility in the United Kingdom and certification to the effect that Dog/Cat has completed six months quarantine must be included.
4. Dog\Cat must be transported by Sea or Air Freight directly into St. Lucia and should not be in contact with any other animal on the flight except those for which a similar permit has been issued. Animals arriving by yachts/boats which have made stops in rabies endemic countries and where the animals have been allowed to leave the vessel in these countries, upon arrival in St. Lucia will remain on board the vessel.
5. Dog/Cat was treated, for and is free from all external parasites.
6. Dog/Cat has been inoculated for common disease conditions, except Rabies, not less than two (2) weeks prior to exportation.
7. Dog/Cat has been treated for internal parasites.
8. Dog has tested negative for heartworm, where applicable.

**SCHEDULE OF COUNTRIES FROM WHICH DOGS/CATS CAN BE IMPORTED INTO ST. LUCIA.**

**Antigua & Barbuda; Barbados; United Kingdom; Jamaica; St. Vincent; St.Kitts/Nevis, Dominica, Bahamas, Jamaica**

- D. Owners are advised that the faecal material from animals remaining on board vessels must be collected in a sealed container/bag and then disposed of through the port garbage collection system.

**There has been revision of the existing legislation to make provisions for the adoption of the Pet Scheme (where animals from rabies endemic countries will be allowed entry once they have met the requirements of the scheme). This revised legislation the “Animals Health (National and International Movement and Disease Prevention) Act is expected to be enacted by 2006.**

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