

## Notification System for the Importation of Animals



When you are bringing an animal into Japan, you must submit notification under the Act on Prevention of Infections and Medical Care for Patients Suffering Infection Diseases. If the notification, including a Veterinary Health Certificate issued by the government authority of the exporting country, does not comply with regulations, the animal must be **reshipped** or **culled**. Costs are also borne by the person bringing in the animal.

## Main pets that require notification



### Mammals

- Ferrets
- Hedgehogs
- Sugar gliders
- Hamsters, etc.



### Birds

- Parrots
- Parakeets
- Pigeons
- Java Sparrows, etc.

- \* Dogs, cats and poultry are not subject to this notification system. However, notification to and quarantine at Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries Animal Quarantine Stations is required.
- \* Birds cannot be imported from countries or regions where there is an outbreak of avian influenza.
- \* Fish, amphibians, reptiles, and insects are not applicable.
- \* Other laws, such as CITES and Invasive Alien Species Act, may be applied.



**Strict regulations on importation of "rodents", such as Hamsters and Squirrels into Japan.**

Hamsters, guinea pigs, squirrels, and chinchillas are classified as "rodents". The requirement for importing "rodents" are strict because it is known to spread many infectious diseases seriously harmful to humans. The rodents raised at home or purchased at pet shop are not allowed for importation into Japan. Notification is also required for importing rodent carcasses. **Rodents are often consumed as meat** in some countries—guinea pigs carcasses called "cuy" are used in South American cuisine—but these are also subject to notification, and in principle they cannot be brought into Japan.



When bringing animals into Japan from overseas, different species are subject to different regulations

Cows, pigs, sheep, goats, deer, horses, chickens, quails, green pheasants, geese, guinea fowls, turkeys, ducks, waterfowls, rabbits, dogs, cats, raccoons, foxes, skunks



Inspected at Animal Quarantine Stations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Living land mammals and birds other than those listed above, and carcasses of Rodentia, Lagomorpha and Ochotonidae orders



Submit notification to Quarantine Stations of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

Ferret-badgers, bats, monkeys, raccoon dogs, masked palm civets, prairie dogs, and soft-furred rats



**Banned from imports**



## Contact Us

Narita Airport Quarantine Station  
(Office of Import Animal Administration)  
**Tel. +81-476-32-6708 Fax. +81-476-32-6725**

Haneda Airport Quarantine Branch, Tokyo Quarantine Station  
(Quarantine and Sanitary Division)  
**Tel. +81-3-6847-9312 Fax. +81-3-6847-9315**

Chubu Airport Quarantine Branch, Nagoya Quarantine Station  
(Quarantine and Sanitary Division)  
**Tel. +81-569-38-8192 Fax. +81-569-38-8194**

Kansai Airport Quarantine Station  
(Office of Import Animal Administration)  
**Tel. +81-72-455-1298 Fax. +81-72-455-1299**  
Fukuoka Airport Quarantine Branch, Fukuoka Quarantine Station  
(Quarantine and Sanitary Division)  
**Tel. +81-92-477-0207 Fax. +81-92-477-0209**



For more details on the notification system for importing animals:

Visit the following website

Notification System for the Importation of Animals

Search



**Many zoonotic diseases are reported in the world every year. Please refrain from bringing wild animals into Japan.**

# Bringing animals into Japan

**You can't bring animals without notification.**

- Ferrets
- Hedgehogs
- Sugar gliders
- Hamsters, etc.

## Main types of pets requiring notification

- Parrots
- Parakeets
- Pigeons
- Java Sparrows, etc.



**MHLW** Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan  
Quarantine Station



**Please contact  
Quarantine  
Station**

## Procedures for Bringing Your Animals with you to Japan



First, call a  
Quarantine  
Station



Fax or E-mail  
to Quarantine  
Station



Submit your documents to Quarantine Station

**Quarantine Service counter  
for importation of animals**



## Step 1 Preparing documents

## Required documents

- Notification Form (2 copies)
- Veterinary Health Certificate  
(issued by the government authority of  
the exporting country)
- Identification document of the importer  
(Officially issued documents that include name and  
address such as passport, Residence Card, Special  
Permanent Resident Certificate, or Driver's License)

[illegible]

| REFERENCE NUMBER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |      |       |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|--|
| <b>VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE<br/>EXPORT OF BIRDS (WITH<br/>THE EXCEPTION OF POULTRY) TO JAPAN</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |      |       |  |
| I. ORIGIN OF BIRDS—Japanese pigeon returning to Japan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |      |       |  |
| II. DESTINATION OF BIRDS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |      |       |  |
| Name of Consignee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |      |       |  |
| Address of Consignee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |      |       |  |
| Name of Issuing or Right Holder                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |      |       |  |
| Address of Issuing or Right Holder                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |      |       |  |
| III. SANITARY INFORMATION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |      |       |  |
| <p>1. The first column is for the name of the bird or a single individual (name of the bird or individual).</p> <p>2. The second column is for the name of the country of origin of the bird or individual (name of the country).</p> <p>3. The third column is for the name of the breeding or raising establishment (name of the establishment).</p> <p>4. The fourth column is for the name of the person or organization that issued the certificate (name of the person or organization).</p> |      |       |  |
| IV. IDENTIFICATION OF BIRDS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |      |       |  |
| DATE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | TIME | PLACE |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |      |       |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |      |       |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |      |       |  |
| Name of Official Veterinarian (printed)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |      |       |  |
| Signature of Official Veterinarian                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |      |       |  |
| Address of Official Veterinarian                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |      |       |  |

## 1 Consult a Quarantine Station

Please provide information such as the animal species, the country the animal is kept, and the expected arrival date in Japan.

## 2 Obtain and fill in the Notification Form (2 copies)

The Notification Form (template) is available on the website.

**3 Obtain Veterinary Health Certificate issued by the government authority of the exporting country**

Veterinary Health Certificate is required for each species respectively.  
Certification procedures may differ according to the exporting country.  
Please contact the relevant government authority of the exporting country.

Animals without a Veterinary Health Certificate issued by the government authority of the exporting country are not allowed to be imported to Japan.

**Step2** Prior confirmation

Animals cannot be imported to Japan if any of the submitted document is incomplete upon arrival in Japan.

To avoid this, have the Quarantine Station (at the airport/seaport animals will be arriving at) review your prepared documents **in advance**.

### Step3 Submit documents

Upon arrival in Japan, please submit the required documents to the Quarantine Station. If the documents are verified to meet the requirements, a certificate of acceptance will be issued and you may proceed to Customs.

Notification complete



### Key Points for Certification

- **Mammals, such as Ferrets**
  - No symptoms of rabies at the time of shipment.
  - The animal must have been kept for a certain period of time or quarantined since birth in a rabies-free region or facility (period of time varies depending on endemic/non-endemic country, and type of storage/quarantine facility).
- **Rodents, such as Hamsters**
  - No symptoms of rabies at the time of shipment.
  - The animal must have been kept since birth in a storage facility free of seven types of infectious diseases such as plague.
  - The storage facility must be certified by the government authority of the exporting country.
- **Birds, such as Parakeets**
  - No symptoms of West Nile fever or HPAI/LPAI at the time of shipment.
  - The animal must have been kept or quarantined for 21 days or since birth in a mosquito-free storage and quarantine facility in a country (or region) without outbreaks of HPAI/LPAI.

