

DEPARTING TURKEY WITH PETS

If you plan to travel abroad with your pet(s), you will need to provide certain documents to Turkish Customs. Below is a simple, step-by-step guide that we hope will help you through this process.

OUTBOUND

STEP 1: Check your pet's health certificate for the shot records. The rabies shot is very important, as it is **only valid for one year in Turkey**. If your pet's rabies shot is not valid, it must have had rabies shot at least **30 days** before the departure date.

STEP 2: Go to the Municipality where your residence is located with the valid health certificate. **Istinye** residents go to Sariyer Municipality on Ahiler Street in Büyükdere, **Şişli** residents go to Şişli Municipality and **Etiler** residents go to Beşiktaş Municipality on the Çırağan Street (on the left side of the entrance of Yıldız Park). Istanbul-Istanbul residents go to Gokturk Municipality.

Other residents please check with Customs and Shipping for the correct office. The municipality officer will provide you a **certificate of origin** (this document is for ensuring that there is no quarantine for any contagious diseases within the region). This document is valid only for **72 Hours** (3 days).

STEP 3: If you reside in **Istinye** or **Sisli** area, take your pet, pet's valid health certificate, shot records, certificate of origin that you received from the municipality to the **Sarıyer Tarım İlçe Müdürlüğü**. If you reside in **Etiler** or **Istanbul-Istanbul** area, you should take these documents to **Eyup Tarım İlçe Müdürlüğü, Gaziosmanpaşa**. **Sarıyer Tarım İlçe Müdürlüğü** is in Çayırbaşı Street, No: 353 Büyükdere, Sariyer. It is just across the İşbank building on the Büyükdere Street. **Eyup İlçe Tarım Müdürlüğü** is in Hukümet Konagi Kat: 4 Gaziosmanpaşa. There, your pet will be examined and disinfected by the veterinarian and be issued a health report. The report is valid for **2 days only**.

STEP 4: **Two days** before you leave, take your pet's valid health certificate, shot records, certificate of origin that you received from the municipality and the report from Sariyer or Gaziosmanpaşa to the Istanbul Customs Veterinarian. The Customs Veterinarian in Istanbul is in Erenköy - Bağdat Street No.333, Erenköy. The Istanbul Customs Veterinarian will issue an **International Health Certificate** for your pet(s). **Please check with the Customs and Shipping unit for the current cost of the certificate**. Since the certificate is valid only for **48 hours** before departure, it is important to carefully time its issuance.

NOTES:

- According to the information received from Delta Airlines, they have an embargo for the unaccompanied pet cargoes to the U.S. this summer season, but they will accept U.S. Mission Turkey members traveling with orders as an exception. Lufthansa Airlines (United Airlines code share) and THY (American Airlines code share) declared that they have no embargoes for pet cargoes this summer.
- At the airport, customs will need to see your original **passport** and **ticket** while loading your pet(s).
- Don't forget to provide a **cage** for your pet(s). If you don't have a cage, it may be possible to buy one from the airlines.
- Do not forget to make **reservations** for your pet(s) with the airline. The earlier you inform the airline the better it will be.
- Do not forget to receive professional advice from a veterinarian regarding the conditions to be provided (food, water bottles, medication etc.) to your pet during its travel. The conditions vary due to your pet's nature and type, so the airlines strongly suggest receiving professional advice prior to the flight.
- You can take cats or small size dogs in the cabin with a cage. Check with the airline for the allowable size and weight of the pet that will be traveling in the cabin.
- You may also send your pet(s) as **unaccompanied** cargo. The procedure is the same. Airport customs will again need to see your passport.
- There is a possibility of placing a computer chip on your pet and a requirement of blood test for your pet. Please contact your airlines to check your last destination/passing through destination requirements on that according to the route of your pet. You can have your pet chipped by any veterinarian or municipality veterinarian that might be cheaper.
- Please be informed that although the Government may reimburse some costs under the miscellaneous expense portion of the foreign transfer allowance and that post provides pet owners with host customs requirement information, shipping a pet is the total responsibility of the employee. **If you would prefer to hire a customs broker to handle the above mentioned steps, GSO-Customs and Shipping unit can provide you contact information for some transportation companies.**

INBOUND

While bringing your pet(s) to Turkey, the only document you need is a valid health certificate. Turkish Customs regulations allow the import of one pet of each kind

per adult person only. Airport Customs may ask to note your pet(s) info in your passport. If Airport Customs does the notation, please contact the Consulate Customs and Shipping unit as soon as you arrive so that we can start the customs operations. If airport customs doesn't request anything from you regarding your pet(s), please do not volunteer/request that notation be made.

NOTES:

- You can also send your pet(s) to Turkey as **unaccompanied** cargo. Your pets need their vaccination card and an International Health Certificate. If the certificate includes the vaccination, you don't need the vaccination card as a separate document. At customs you should personally meet your pet(s) with your original passport (per customs regulations, 1 adult can import 1 pet only). After your pet(s) goes through the customs veterinarian check at the cargo section, the customs officer might note your pet(s) info in your passport and complete the delivery. If the officer does, please contact GSO Customs & Shipping office. If the officer does not annotate, please do not volunteer/request that notation be made. Please remember that the pet's arrival as "unaccompanied cargo" requires customs clearance by a licensed customs broker, which involves service cost that can not be credited to travel orders.