

MERCOSUR/GMC/RES. No. 17/15

**ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS OF MEMBER STATES FOR THE ENTRY OF
DOMESTIC DOGS AND CATS
(IT REPEALS GMC RESOLUTIONS No. 04/96 AND 05/96)**

HAVING REGARD TO: The Treaty of Asunción and the Ouro Preto Protocol.

WHEREAS THAT:

It is necessary to update the Animal Health Requirements and the model certificate for the entry of domestic dogs and cats into Member States.

**THE COMMON MARKET GROUP
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1 - The “Animal health requirements of Member States for the entry of domestic dogs and cats” and the “Model International Veterinary Certificate” are provided in Annexes I and II, respectively, and are part of this Resolution.

Section 2 –Member States shall designate the national competent bodies within the scope of SGT (Work Sub-group) No. 8 for the implementation of this Resolution.

Section 3 –GMC (Common Market Group) Resolutions No. 04/96 and 05/96 shall be repealed.

Section 4 - This Resolution shall be incorporated into the legal system of Member States by 1/XII/2015.

XCVIII GMC – Brasília, 29/V/15

ANNEX I

ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS OF MEMBER STATES FOR THE ENTRY OF DOMESTIC DOGS AND CATS

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1 - For the purposes of this Resolution, domestic dogs and cats refer to the specimens of the species *Canis lupus familiaris* and *Felis silvestris catus*, respectively, which shall be hereinafter referred to as “the animals”.

Section 2 - The requirements established in this Resolution shall be applied to final or temporary entries, as well as to participations in exhibitions or international events, and to cover international transit movements within the territory of any Member State.

Section 3 – Any Member State may create an automatic specific set of rules of immediate application for entries regulated by means of this Resolution. This set of rules shall be applied by the Member State receiving the animals, and shall be notified and agreed to with the Exporting Country whenever restrictions or prohibitions to certain cosmetic and/or disfiguring surgeries enter into force within one or some of the political division/s of their territory. These restrictions or prohibitions shall also apply to the admission of specimens of animals from breeds considered dangerous, the request of the identification of said animals, or the health plans or programs to control/eradicate certain diseases not provided for in this Resolution.

Section 4 - Aspects regarding the characteristics of containers used for movement, as well as any other regulation regarding the means of transport used, shall be exclusive responsibility of the animal owner.

CHAPTER II ABOUT CERTIFICATION

Section 5 - Animals shall be supported by the original International Veterinary Certificate (IVC), issued by the Veterinary Authority of the Exporting Country. This Certificate shall contain all the health assurances provided for in this Resolution.

Section 6 - The IVC shall be valid for entry or return to Member States for a period of sixty (60) calendar days, as of its date of issuance. Therefore, vaccine certification against rabies shall be in force within the validity period of the IVC.

Section 7 - When dealing with temporary entries into one of the Member States, or when the animal stay is equal or less than sixty (60) days, the intervening staff at the entry point shall not keep the original sample of the IVC; it shall remain with the owner until returning to the country of origin. Instead, they may keep a copy of said certificate.

Section 8 - At the point of entry/exit into/from the Member State, the staff shall not keep the original sample of the vaccination certificate against rabies of those animals that, according to the terms of this Resolution, require immunization against said disease. In this case, the vaccination certificate shall remain with the animal owner.

Section 9 - Member States shall authorize animal entry if supported by a passport valid for the territory of the country where it was granted, issued or authenticated by the Veterinary Authority of the country of origin. Said passport shall contain all the information required in the model certificate provided in the Annex of this Resolution.

CHAPTER III ABOUT HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Section 10 - At the time of entry, animals older than ninety (90) days shall be vaccinated against rabies with vaccines authorized by the Veterinary Authority of the country where they were applied.

Section 11 - When dealing with animals primo-vaccinated against rabies, dispatch from the Exporting Country shall be authorized twenty-one (21) days after the application of said vaccine.

Section 12 - Animals younger than three (3) months may be admitted to enter a Member State if:

- 1) The Veterinary Authority of the Exporting Country certifies that the animal is younger than ninety (90) days, by writing this information in the box of the IVC provided for said purpose.

and

- 2) The animal has not been in any premises where a case of urban rabies has occurred in the last ninety (90) days, based on the statement provided by the owner and/or the official epidemiologic information.

Section 13 - The country or zone of origin that complies with the provisions of the relevant chapter of the Terrestrial Code of the International Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in order to be declared officially free from rabies, even though it does not have an officially approved vaccine, shall be exempted from the application of the vaccine. In this case, the Member State of destination shall recognize said condition and the attestation of free country or zone shall be included in the certificate.

Section 14 - The IVC shall contain information on valid vaccination against diseases not considered notifiable in this Resolution. In addition, they shall state the veterinary treatments applied on animals within the last three (3) months.

Section 15 - The animals shall be subjected to an efficient broad spectrum treatment against internal and external parasites with veterinary products authorized by the Veterinary Authority of the Exporting Country within fifteen (15) days prior to the issuance of the IVC.

Section 16 - The animals shall be subjected to a clinical exam performed by a veterinary specialist registered in the Exporting Country within ten (10) days prior to the issuance of the IVC. The veterinary specialist shall certify that said animals are clinically healthy, show no evidence of parasitic diseases and that they are fit for transport to the Member State of destination.

Section 17 - The Member State receiving the animals shall not authorize the entry into its territory of animals previously diagnosed with Leishmaniosis.

CHAPTER IV ABOUT INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFICATION

Section 18 - Each Member State retains the right to define the animal identification procedure.

If an electronic identification system is used, the pertinent transponder (microchip) shall comply with ISO Standards 11784 or with Annex "A" of Standard 11785. In addition, the anatomical region where the transponder is located shall be indicated in the IVC.

CHAPTER V ABOUT NON-COMPLIANCE

Section 19 - When an animal not complying with the health requirements established in this Resolution arrives to an entry point of a Member State, the Veterinary Authority of said Member State may implement the necessary health measures in order to protect its animal health condition.

Section 20 - The costs and/or losses of any type resulting from a partial or total non-compliance with the terms of this Resolution shall be borne by the owner / person responsible for the animal.