



03 March 2022

## **Guidelines on Temporary procedure for dealing with animals accompanying travellers entering Malta from Ukraine during the military conflict.**

### **Objective of the guidelines:**

- to establish a system to minimise the risk of importing animals presenting a potential risk of transmission of infectious diseases, in particular rabies virus to humans and animals in the event of a mass influx of people leaving the area of military operations and with accompanying animals
- to minimise delays at border crossing points and improve the movement of people across the external EU border

### **Animals of the species dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*), cats (*Felis silvestris catus*), ferrets (*Mustela putorius furo*):**

Animals moved in conditions of extreme emergency may accompany travellers when

(A) all EU requirements are met, i.e.

- the animal has been properly identified with a microchip;
- the animal has been vaccinated against rabies and vaccination is still valid;
- the animal has a current serological test to determine the titre of anti-rabies antibodies;
- the animal has a valid passport issued in one of the EU Member States certificate that conforms to the model set out in EU law;

Or

(B) in a situation where one or more of the above requirements are not met.

### **Derogations from the standard requirements for dogs, cats and ferrets due to an emergency situation:**

Animals moved during a military conflict do not need to be serologically tested for anti-rabies antibody titers.

Animals moved during a military conflict may enter without prior individual application for a permit.

Transportation companies (by air or ferry) and Customs officers shall inform the Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD) on the arrival and number of pets from Ukraine.

### **Procedure in the event of failure to meet the requirements**

The minimum requirement for when an animal may enter the EU should be a microchipped animal accompanied by a rabies vaccination document no earlier than 12 months before the date of movement. It must be possible to verify the identity of the animal.

The VRD will make sure that animals are quarantined and the below procedures are fulfilled by VRD:

- EU Pet Passport
- identification of the animal (if the microchip is missing or illegible);
- vaccination against rabies (if vaccination cannot be documented or is invalid);
- blood collection for serological testing for the determination of the level of anti-rabies antibodies performed by an approved laboratory.

After obtaining the result of the serological test, according to which the level of antibodies confirms acquired immunity, the animal is released from quarantine and the animal is provided with documents confirming compliance with the requirements.

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