

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE FOR ARRANGING YOUR DOG'S ROUNDTRIP TO THE MAINLAND

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Getting a dog up to the mainland and back can be quite challenging, particularly for a first timer. To complete the journey and avoid an actual quarantine of the dog, an owner must comply with the requirements of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture ("DOA") 5-Day-or-Less Quarantine Program. Here are some suggestions to help organize the effort and, hopefully, help make the journey free of problems. (These suggestions assume that the dog will not be traveling under an airline passenger seat*, that the dog will be going to the mainland only after the two rabies vaccinations have been completed here in Hawaii, and that the dog will be returning in relatively short order.)

In formulating the suggestions below, an attempt has been made to be thorough and accurate. Nevertheless, the owner has ultimate responsibility to acquaint himself or herself with DOA and airline rules and requirements and to plan accordingly in light of his or her own needs. THE AUTHOR AND THE SHETLAND SHEEPDOG CLUB OF HAWAII ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY LACK OF COMPLIANCE WITH THOSE RULES AND REQUIREMENTS OR FOR ANY CONTINGENCIES NOT ANTICIPATED BY THESE SUGGESTIONS.

* :Your airline might completely prohibit in cabin passage on the flight back to Hawaii and there may be a limit on the number of pets traveling in the cabin.

1. Carefully review the information available online at the DOA's website (<http://hawaii.gov/hdoa/ai/aqs/info>), especially the "Checklist Only For Resident Dogs And Cats Originating From Hawaii And Returning For The 5-Day-Or-Less Program." Review deadlines carefully.
2. For additional health certification or other requirements, if any, check the state animal importation rules of your dog's ultimate destination
3. Review airline passenger and cargo websites (*e.g.*, www.united.com and www.unitedcargo.com) for the requirements of the airline of your choice, *e.g.*, for embargos, kennel specifications, and health certificates (including the expiration period for health certificates under airline rules)
4. Start the required regimen of two rabies vaccinations immediately. Don't procrastinate!
5. Perform the blood test (commonly known as the "Titre") for rabies antibodies as soon as your veterinarian deems advisable after the first rabies vaccination (as early as two weeks after the first rabies vaccination)
6. Using the dates of the favorable Titre results and the second rabies vaccination and the applicable 120-day and 90-day waiting periods, determine the earliest date your dog can return to Hawaii under DOA rules and regulations
7. The DOA requires the dog to be current on its immunizations for (a) distemper, (b) infectious

hepatitis virus or adenivirus-2, (c) parvovirus, parainfluenza virus, and (d) bordetella. Avoid giving last minute vaccination boosters, especially if you are sending a bitch to the mainland to be bred. In other words, don't wait until you go in to your veterinarian for the health certificate. Do such vaccinations beforehand.

8. Estimate the approximate date that you would like your dog to be traveling, *e.g.*, when your bitch will come into season or the date of the mainland show. (If the travel date is within the next six months or so and you haven't even started the specified series of rabies vaccinations, it's too late.)
9. Consider the following potential cost cutting measures: (1) borrowing, not buying, the shipping kennel, (2) using the smallest kennel permitted for your dog by airline regulations, and (3) arranging your annual vacation plans around your dog's mainland visit and taking him or her as extra baggage rather than shipping him or her through air cargo
10. Determine whether seasonal airline embargos or "high" temperatures at various airports will affect the air or ground transportation routes your dog must take
11. Choose a return flight that is scheduled to arrive in Hawaii during office hours of the Airport Animal Quarantine Holding Facility (8 a.m. and 8 p.m.). If this is your first time doing all of this, you might consider scheduling for an arrival

- during your veterinarian's office hours, so that he or she is available to provide assistance, if possible, in the case of a problem with your documentation.
12. Before your dog leaves Hawaii: (1) confirm that your dog's microchip is in fact functioning and (2) check with the DOA website (<http://hawaii.gov/hdoa/ai/aqs/microchip>) to see that the favorable Titre results have been received by the DOA
 13. Find out whether under rules of your selected airlines, the health certificate will expire sooner than the 14-days under DOA regulations (e.g., at least one airline requires a health certificate issued within 10 days of travel by air cargo)
 14. Determine whether the length of your dog's stay on the mainland will necessitate a second health certificate.
 15. If a second health certificate is necessary for any reason, see to it that the mainland veterinarian has available to him or her a copy of a current vaccination certificate for distemper *etc.*, which includes vaccination dates that show that the vaccinations will still be current as of the date of your dog's return to Hawaii.
 16. If a second health certificate is necessary because your dog will be arriving back in Hawaii more than 14 days after the date of the first health certificate, see to it that the mainland veterinarian has available to him the following documents:

- a. Department of Agriculture's form letter to veterinarians (Form AQS-39)
 - b. Specific instructions to include a statement of your dog's Hawaii residence address, not just your address simply as shipper, owner, or consignee
 - c. Photocopies of the health certificate and rabies vaccination certificates issued by your Hawaii veterinarian
17. If a second health certificate is necessary because your dog will be arriving back in Hawaii more than 14 days after the date of the first health certificate, the mainland veterinarian should be the one to do the DOA-required tick treatment (with, *e.g.*, Frontline) and reflect that on the health certificate
 18. Compare any and all health certificates against all DOA requirements (*e.g.*, the requirements that the certificate state your dog's microchip number, Hawaii residence address, and date of departure or return to Hawaii) before you leave the office of the examining veterinarian
 19. The day before the departure from Hawaii, properly prepare and outfit the kennel with labeling and other information (including your dog's name, the dates, airlines and flight nos. of the flights in each direction, and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the consignees on each end—one of them is probably you), two clip-on dishes for water and food,

- bottled water and kibble, absorbent material, and a soft toy or an item bearing your scent
20. To ensure rapid release upon your dog's arrival back in Hawaii you should send in the required documentation and payment to the Rabies Quarantine Branch in Halawa so that it is received on a work day that is more than 10 days before the day your dog returns to Hawaii and obtain a return receipt
 21. Confirm reservations 24 hours before shipment or travel time in each direction
 22. Have some plastic ties on hand to attach water bottles to the kennel and to secure the kennel door after the airlines and/or TSA has completed the necessary inspection of the kennel
 23. Be prepared to present to the shipping clerk or baggage check-in clerk an original or carbon copy (not a photocopy) of the health certificate and one copy. At the time of departure, you should also present original or carbon copies of the two rabies vaccination certificates
 24. Have a hand truck or luggage cart when you go to drop off your dog at air cargo or airport and when you pick up your dog at the Airport Animal Quarantine Holding Facility. (It would be best if you had someone else with you to help with the car.)
 25. Have the following with you when you go to pick your dog up from the Airport Animal Quarantine Holding Facility upon arrival in Hawaii:

- a. Photocopies of the documentation you sent to the Quarantine Branch (including photocopies of the Dog & Cat Import Form, health certificate, rabies vaccination certificates, and payment) together with the return receipt, or the original documents and payment
- b. Photocopy of the second health certificate, if any (the airlines will attach the original to the kennel along with the air bill)

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