



Requirements for bringing pets to the Big Island from outside of Hawaii without quarantine- Direct Airport Release (DAR) in Kona

*****Animal quarantine protocols are subject to change anytime without our knowledge. This informational sheet was compiled to assist in guiding clients through the direct release process and PAH is not liable for any complications due to recent changes in direct release protocols. PLEASE DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH VIA THE HAWAII DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE WEBSITE TO CONFIRM THE NECESSARY STEPS YOU NEED TO TAKE <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/ai/aqs/aqs-info/>*****

1. Your pets must be current on their Rabies vaccines, and they must have had at least 2 Rabies vaccines in their lifetimes. The Rabies vaccines must be given a minimum of 30 days apart from each other. You will need the Rabies certificates from the last 2 vaccines, and there is a waiting period of 30 days from the last Rabies vaccine given before you can enter the state of Hawaii. Your pets must also be microchipped.
2. You must get a Rabies Titer Test done on both pets through Kansas State University, and the tests must have a passing score of 0.5 IU/ml or higher. Upon successful completion of the Rabies Titer Test, there is a waiting period of 30 days before you can enter the state of Hawaii. In order to have the best chance of passing the Titer Test, your pets should be current on their Rabies vaccines, and you should wait at least 20 days between the most recent Rabies vaccine and the blood draw for the Titer Test. Your local veterinarian can help you submit the test. If your pets are not currently microchipped, they must have a microchip implanted before submitting the Rabies Titer Test and the microchip information must be included on the Titer Test form and all of the following applications.
3. You must contact an animal hospital here on the Big Island and arrange for them to inspect your pets for release at Kona International Airport. We recommend **Keauhou Veterinary Hospital**- you can reach them at **(808) 322-2988**. You must contact them at least 30 days in advance of your planned arrival in Hawaii. The technician that does the inspections is extremely helpful and will give you all of the information you will need.
4. When requesting Direct Airport Release in Kona, you must also apply for a Neighbor Island Inspection Permit (NIIP) for each pet through the Animal Quarantine Station on Oahu. Once you contact Keauhou Vet to arrange the inspection, they will help you do this. The NIIPs will be mailed directly to you from the AQS and you must have these forms with you to be allowed direct release in Kona.
5. You must fill out the Dog and Cat Import form for each pet and submit it with the required proof of vaccination to the Animal Quarantine Station at least 30 days before your planned arrival in Hawaii.
6. You must get a Health Certificate for each pet dated within 10 days for your flight to Hawaii, and the certificates must include the application or administration of a product labeled to kill fleas and ticks such as Advantage Multi, Nexgard, etc. Your local veterinarian can help you with this.

Here is the Animal Quarantine Station website with all the information about forms and fees that you will need. You will be using Checklist #2 from this website, and will also need to complete the Dog & Cat Import form:

<https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/ai/aqs/aqs-info/>

We recommend starting the process at least two to four months in advance depending on the vaccination status of your pets. Please allow time for delays, as everything is taking a bit longer right now due to COVID.

Once you have your pets safely here on the Big Island, please give us a call at (808) 930-5888 to schedule an exam to establish care. We look forward to meeting you and your pets!

Traveling Outside of Hawaii and returning with your pets

If you are located in Hawaii and plan to travel outside of Hawaii with your pets and have had a Rabies Titer Test done within the last three years, the test is good for 3 years, so you will not need a new one each time you wish to leave and re-enter Hawaii. You will however need to have a new Health Certificate dated within 10 days of your departing flight for each trip, and if your trip will last more than 10 days, you will need another Health Certificate dated within 10 days of your return flight to re-enter Hawaii. You will also need to submit a new Dog & Cat Import Form along with the Rabies certificates for the last two Rabies vaccines, arrange inspection at the airport with Keauhou Veterinary Hospital, and obtain a new NIIP from the AQS for each return trip into Hawaii. This should be done at least 30 days prior to your return trip to Hawaii. If you plan to travel frequently with your pets, make sure to keep them current on their Rabies vaccines and keep good records, and resubmit a new Rabies Titer Test every 3 years.

For pets located in Hawaii who are departing and returning to Hawaii, you will be using Checklist #4 from the AQS website for DAR, and will also need to complete the Dog & Cat Import form:

<https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/ai/aqs/aqs-info/>

We are happy to assist with Health Certificates for departing Hawaii and submitting subsequent Rabies Titer Tests! Please give us a call at (808) 930-5888 to get established or schedule an appointment.