

Temporary procedure for dealing with animals moved for non-commercial purposes of up to 5 animals, accompanying refugees entering the EU from Ukraine through the Polish external border during a military conflict.

1. Purpose of the procedure:

- Modification of the control and supervision system for companion animals moved from Ukraine to Poland after 4 months of the temporary procedure of March 17 this year.
- Continuation of actions to minimize difficulties for refugees from Ukraine at border crossings, while taking into account the continuous standardization of the functioning of the system for marking and vaccinating companion animals in a large part of the territory of the Ukrainian state.

Responsible institutions: Veterinary Inspection (VI), National Revenue Administration (NRA/ KAS)

2. Description of situation

In the situation of movement of persons from Ukraine to the EU, we can expect **three groups of persons travelling** with companion animals:

- citizens of the EU,
- citizens of Ukraine,
- citizens of other third countries.

Due to the possibility of marking and vaccinating against rabies in areas not affected by active hostilities in Ukraine, confirmed by the veterinary administration of Ukraine, animal owners or persons authorized by the owner planning to travel to the EU should perform the above-mentioned activities before they cross the Ukrainian-Polish border. They should also have a document issued by a veterinarian confirming compliance with the above requirements.

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

Animals of the above-mentioned species moved to the EU Member States in accordance with the standard procedure may accompany travelers if **all EU requirements are met, i.e.:**

- 1) the animal has been properly identified with a microchip
- 2) the animal has been vaccinated against rabies and vaccination is still valid
<https://www.wetgiw.gov.pl/nadzor-weterynaryjny/szczepienie-na-wscieklizne>
- 3) the animal has a current serological test to determine the titre of anti-rabies antibodies
<https://www.wetgiw.gov.pl/nadzor-weterynaryjny/badanie-poziomu-przeciwcial>
- 4) the animal is provided with a health certificate in accordance with the model specified in EU law (<https://www.wetgiw.gov.pl/nadzor-weterynaryjny/swiadectwo-zdrowia>) or, in certain cases, a valid passport issued in one of the EU Member States <https://www.wetgiw.gov.pl/nadzor-weterynaryjny/dokumenty-identyfikacyjne> .

3. Proceedings in the event of failure to meet the requirements referred to in paragraph 2.1

3.1. Failure to meet the requirements contained in paragraph 2.1 point 1 or 2

A person crossing the border with an animal that does not meet the import requirements referred to in paragraph 2.1 point 1 or 2, is obliged to declare to the customs and revenue officer (NRA/ KAS) the possession of the animal and to complete an application form, the specimen of which is attached as Appendix 1 to this procedure.

The customs and revenue officer directs such an animal to an official veterinarian (OV).

The OV or the NRA / KAS officer competent for the place of crossing the border informs the owner of the animal about the necessity:

- of withdrawal from the border to Ukraine in the event of refusal to subject the animal to rabies labeling and vaccination at its own expense (the Veterinary Inspection issues an administrative decision to send the animal back) or,
- of marking and vaccinating the animal against rabies at its own expense at a private practice veterinarian after a telephone call. Veterinarians providing the above-mentioned medical and veterinary services are indicated in agreement between the heads of animal treatment facilities and the regional / district veterinarians.

The Official Veterinarian competent for the place of crossing the border, after confirming that the above-mentioned medical and veterinary activities have been carried out, issues a permit, the specimen of which is attached as Appendix 2 to the procedure.

In the case of animals that do not meet the requirements contained in paragraph. 2.1 points 1 or 2, i.e. those requiring vaccination and marking, the border crossing is possible only by rail in Przemyśl and Chełm.

3.2. Failure to meet the requirements contained in paragraph 2.1 point 3 or 4

Due to the emergency caused by the ongoing armed conflict in Ukraine, the animals of the above-mentioned species accompanying their owners or persons authorized by the owner who cross the Ukrainian-Polish border from July 16, 2022. may be introduced on the territory of Poland despite failure to meet the requirements contained in paragraph 2.1 point 3 or 4.

In this case, the person crossing the border with the animal that does not meet the import requirements referred to in paragraph 2.1 point 3 or 4, is obliged to declare to the NRA/ KAS officer that he has an animal and to complete an application form, the specimen of which is attached as Appendix 1 to this procedure.

The customs and revenue officer directs such an animal to an official veterinarian (OV).

The Official Veterinarian competent for the place of crossing the border issues a permit, the specimen of which is attached as Appendix 2 to the procedure.

3.3. Procedure in the event of crossing the border without obtaining a permit (cases of detection of illegal border crossing by the owner or guardian of the animal)

In the event of crossing the border with an animal without obtaining the above-mentioned permit and the lack of marking and vaccination of the animal against rabies, the authority that revealed the illegal

crossing of the border notifies the territorially competent District Veterinary Officer, who decides on sending for isolation for a period of up to 6 months, in a place indicated by the official veterinarian, in accordance with Art. 35 of Regulation (EU) 2013/576.

After isolation is ordered, the animal will be marked and vaccinated against rabies, and 30 days after vaccination, it will be tested for anti-rabies antibody titration. The costs of isolation, vaccination and marking as well as other necessary medical and veterinary activities are borne by the owner of the animal.

If the antibody level is satisfactory (above 0.5 IU / ml), the appropriate District Veterinary Officer may decide to shorten isolation.

After performing the above-mentioned activities, Official Veterinarian issues a permit, the specimen of which is attached as Appendix 2 to the procedure.

4. Handling animals under 12 weeks of age:

- up to 8 weeks of age, marking and vaccination against rabies is not required.

In that case, only an authorization for moving the accompanying animal should be obtained.

The activities related to marking and vaccination against rabies should be completed later, after the animal is 8 weeks old;

- from 8 to 12 weeks of age as in paragraph 3.1. and 3.2.

5. Other species of animals moved as companion animals (rodents, rabbits, amphibians, reptiles, ornamental aquatic animals, invertebrates)

Due to the lack of risk related to the potential transmission of infectious diseases dangerous to humans or animals, including rabies virus, a temporary exemption from the obligation to have the Chief Veterinary Officer permission for importation is introduced. If these are species restricted by the Washington CITES Convention without the required permits, the decision will be made by the National Revenue Administration (NRA/ KAS).

6. The "Temporary procedure of the Chief Veterinary Officer" of March 17, 2022 is no longer valid.