



The Veterinary and Food Authority of Greenland (VFMG) under the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture has issued the following guidelines for bringing dogs and/or cats into Greenland. The guidelines also cover travelling with these animals within Greenland.

In order to protect the Greenlandic Sled Dog as a breed Act no. 18 of 30 October 1998 establishes a so called sled dog district. The territory is defined as follows:

- North of Greenland on the West Coast from north of 66th northern degree of latitude,
- The entire East Coast down to Kap Farvel, east of the 44th western degree of longitude.

Within this district, only Greenlandic Sled Dogs may be kept and it is strictly prohibited to bring other dogs into these areas. This concerns both dogs travelling onboard cruise ships with tourists and local dogs travelling within Greenland.

In accordance to Article 19, subsection 2 of Act no. 18 of 30th October 1998 by Greenland's Home Rule regarding sled dogs, it is prohibited to introduce dogs of any race into the sled dog districts. The same Article states that it is prohibited to reintroduce Greenlandic Sled Dogs once they have left the sled dog district.

Working dogs and service dogs for disabled people may be permitted admittance to the sled dog district, but only after receiving a permit from the Government of Greenland. Working dogs are solely defined as the dogs used by police or by the authorities in relation to border control.

To bring a dog or cat into Greenland, to an area outside the sled dog district, you need a permit from the Greenland Representation in Denmark. The Greenland Representation will issue the permit based on receiving and assessing the following documentation:

- a. Documentation of permanent ID marking of the animal (e.g. a microchip) prior to vaccination
- b. Documentation of rabies vaccination. The vaccination has to be at least 30 days old, but no more than 365 days old prior to entry into Greenland.

Puppies under 3 months of age can be admitted without a rabies vaccination, but only if the mother has been vaccinated at least 30 days prior to giving birth, but no more than 365 days prior to giving birth. In this case, documentation of the mother's vaccinations is needed.

- c. Documentation of immunization (i.e. a completed base vaccination program) against canine distemper virus and parvovirus (only relevant for dogs).

Puppies younger than 3 months old can be imported without vaccinations against canine distemper virus and parvovirus, but only if the mother has been fully vaccinated against canine distemper virus and parvovirus, and only if the vaccinations are valid and in accordance with the guidelines. In this case, documentation of the vaccinations of the mother will be needed.



- d. A health certificate of the animal, signed by an authorized veterinarian more than 14 days prior to departure.
- e. A statement from an authorized veterinarian, stating that the animal has been treated against the small fox tapeworm (*Ecchinococcus multilocularis*) within 14 days of departure. The animal must be isolated from other animals after the treatment and prior to travelling.
- f. Written permit from the local (municipal) authorities. Inquiries and applications can be directed to:
- Kommune Kujalleq: kommune@kujalleq.gl
 - Kommuneqaarfik Sermersooq: kommuneqaarfik@sermersooq.gl
 - Qeqqata Kommunia: geqqata@geqqata.gl
 - Kommune Qeqertalik: geqertalik@geqertalik.gl
 - Avannaata Kommunia: avannaata@avannaata.gl

The Greenland Representation can be contacted via e-mail: info@ghsdk.dk.

Please observe that there are no dog kennels or dog pensions in Greenland where dogs can be kept temporarily. Furthermore, please note that access to veterinary assistance in case of illness is very limited in Greenland.

The local authorities may have further requirements in order to achieve permission to keep dogs and cats. This may include, but is not limited to, a requirement of neutralization of female animals.

Furthermore, please note that travelling with animals to different municipalities will require a permit from each municipality individually.

If any questions please contact The Veterinary and Food Authority of Greenland by e-mail uumasut@nanoq.gl or by telephone number +299 34 50 00 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 9 am and 3 pm, local West Greenlandic time (GMT -3). Please note that the office is also closed on all national holidays.

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