



Date  
31.3.2023

Dnro  
1445/04.01.00.01/2022

Animal Health and Welfare Department  
Animal Health and Medication Unit

## **Isolation instructions for dogs, cats and ferrets in special situations.**

### **The isolation of dogs, cats and ferrets accompanying refugees coming from Ukraine and EU citizens returning to Finland for compelling reasons from Russia when entry requirements are not met**

The primary purpose of import requirements for dogs, cats and ferrets is to prevent the spread to Finland of rabies and the tapeworm (*Echinococcus multilocularis*), which causes alveolar echinococcosis. Due to the situation in Ukraine, Finland will allow pets owned by and accompanying refugees to enter Finland even where the entry requirements for the pet are not met. If import requirements are not met at the time of entry, the animal must be placed in isolation for 90 days. Isolation can take place either in the home or in an animal shelter. The official veterinarian must be notified of any symptoms of animal disease arising or any death of the animal during the isolation period.

#### **1 Outdoor exercise and contact with other animals**

- Wild animals must be prevented from coming into contact with animals in isolation.
- Animals in isolation must not be allowed to come into contact with other animals.
- However, animals belonging to the same family may be kept in the same premises.
- Every effort must be made to prevent animals from escaping.

#### **2 Care of animals in isolation**

- Proper care, feeding, watering and ventilation appropriate for each species must be arranged for the animals.
- Animal care must be arranged so as to prevent the exposure of the carers to risk and so that no potential infections are allowed to spread between animals in isolation or to outside of the premises.
- Any animal placed in isolation may be exercised outside in an outdoor area or on a lead but all contact with other animals and people, other than the owner, must be minimised. When exercising an animal on a lead, every attempt must be made to ensure that under no circumstances can the animal escape (use a harness instead of a collar).

#### **3 Carer safety**

- If an animal in isolation bites a person, the person concerned should immediately contact a health centre.
- The health centre staff should be informed that the animal concerned was a pet from Ukraine that had been ordered to be isolated because not all the import criteria were met.
- The premises and care equipment must be cleaned and disinfected once the animal has left the premises.

#### **5 Access of people to isolation premises**

- Outside parties must not be allowed access to the isolation premises.

#### **6 Waste management in isolated premises**

- Faeces from animals in isolation must be collected and disposed of with household waste.



Date  
31.3.2023

Dnro  
1445/04.01.00.01/2022

Animal Health and Welfare Department  
Animal Health and Medication Unit

## **7 Interventions in the case of animals in isolation**

- Pets must be microchipped and/or given a rabies vaccination if these are lacking when the animal enters the country.
- The veterinarian must also take a blood sample from dogs, cats and ferrets arriving from Ukraine to test for rabies antibodies.
- Customs has issued the pet owner with a decision concerning the shortcomings and the required interventions and regulations. Where this is not the case, the animal carer must contact the Finnish Food Authority by email to [kolmasmaa@ruokavirasto.fi](mailto:kolmasmaa@ruokavirasto.fi) and send photos of any documents accompanying the animal.