In accordance with the relevant decisions of the Turkish Ministry of Health’s Science Board, in line with the provisions that stipulated in the paragraph (d) of first clause of Article 4 of Veterinary Services, Plant Health, Food and Feed Law No. 5996 and the third paragraph of Article 25, except for whatever purpose, within the commercial the context entry and exit of exotic animals and invertebrates, amphibians, dogs, cats, ferrets, ornamental fish, reptiles, rodents, domestic rabbits and all kinds of birds to the country alongside travelers are suspended with the exclusion of those  have actually begun their travel.

As regards imports of some pets on condition that they are accompanied by travelers, who are defined as traveler within the scope of customs legislation, accompanied parasitoid agents and predators to be used for pesticides and experiments, and all kinds of experimental animals and butterflies and products to be used for feed without heat treatment, a re-evaluation has been carried out by the Turkish Ministry of Health’s Science Board.

In this regard, due to the fact that COVID-19 is currently prevalent worldwide, for all countries:

* It has been decided that traveling of domestic animals, which have health certificates and are not intended for commercial purposes such as dogs, cats, birds and ornamental fish with the owner of pets, is allowed provided that 14 days isolation of the animal with the animal owner upon return from abroad is ensured,
* Since the origin of the source animal of the disease and the intermediate host of SARS-CoV-2, which is the vector of  COVID-19 that falls in the in the group of zoonotic viruses, have not been fully clarified yet and due to continued assessment that exotic animals may be origin or intermediate hosts, implementation of the decision to suspend entry and exit for commercial purposes of exotic animals, invertebrates, amphibians, dogs, cats, ferrets, reptiles, rodents, rabbits, birds to the country and implementation of this decision during pandemic will continue,
* Controlled import of experimental animals provided that they are kept in laboratory conditions and controlled environments for use in scientific research (such as vaccine development, drug development, antiserum development) in our country is allowed,
* Imports of parasitoid factors, predictors and butterfly species for pesticides is allowed,
* Animal products imported for animal feeding purposes should be subjected to heat treatment at least 30 minutes at a temperature of 70 degrees before or during the preparation phase and this process should continue during the epidemic,
* Imports of feeding fish, such as sardine fish, which are used in the feeding of aquatic animals and beneficial insects, dried or frozen, or land and aquatic invertebrates (such as insect eggs, artemia eggs) or tuna fish is allowed without heat treatment,
* Imports of aquatic products such as live or frozen lobsters, crabs, crayfish, shrimps used for human consumption and other animal products is allowed on condition that general hygiene measures to prevent contamination from outside, in this respect using protective equipment in food preparation and ensuring hand hygiene before and after contacts with foodstuffs, are taken.