



Guidance for import stakeholders on the import of a dog with cropped ears into Ireland

In accordance with the Ear-cropping of Dogs Regulations 2023 (S.I No 412 of 2023)-

Effective from September 1st, 2023, restrictions will apply to the import into Ireland of dogs with cropped ears: [S.I. 412 of 2023](#)

In accordance with this S.I., ear cropping means the removal of all or part of the ear of a dog:

- (a) for a purpose other than the diagnosis or treatment of injury, disease or infection, or
- (b) by a person other than a veterinary practitioner.

Import requirements for a dog with cropped ears

A dog that has had all, or part, of its ears removed, may only be imported into Ireland if the dog is accompanied by an import licence issued by Animal Welfare Division of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

To apply for a licence, the **Application Form to Import a Dog with Cropped Ears into Ireland** [\[FORM AW AFCE 2023\]](#) must be completed.

In addition, each dog with cropped ears imported into Ireland must be accompanied by an original veterinary certificate stating the veterinary reason for the ear cropping procedure, signed by veterinary practitioner and with official veterinary practice stamp.

The application form outlines details to be included in this veterinary certificate.

[Link: Import licence application form](#)

The completed application form, along with the completed, signed veterinary certificate, must be submitted electronically **at least 5 days** in advance of travel to: welfarelicensing@agriculture.gov.ie
Once an import application is approved, a signed import licence will issue electronically.

Documentation that must travel with a dog with cropped ears

A dog with cropped ears arriving in Ireland must be accompanied by a copy of the signed import licence issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, original ear cropping veterinary certificate issued in country of origin, and any additional documentation required for entry into Ireland.

It will be an offence for a person have in their possession, or under their control, a dog with cropped ears imported into Ireland after September 1st, 2023 that has not fulfilled import requirements in accordance with S.I. No. 412 of 2023.

Responsibilities of Transport Operators

An operator of a vessel, vehicle or aircraft is not permitted to use the vessel, vehicle or aircraft to import a dog where all or part of the ear of the dog has been removed, whether removal occurred



before or after the commencement of these Regulations unless a licence has been granted to the dog owner/keeper by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Further Information

For further information, please contact: welfarelicensing@agriculture.gov.ie

Frequently Asked Questions

What do cropped ears look like?

Annex I includes images of dogs with cropped ears, for guidance purposes.



ANNEX I

Examples of dogs with cropped ears for guidance purposes

