

RELOCATING TO SINGAPORE

Chapter

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Choosing the right moving company will save you on a lot of hassle. A professional moving company will be experienced and knowledgeable enough to guide you through the procedures and provide information on relocation, packing, necessary paperwork, insurance, etc. You should expect a good mover to assist you from the day you start packing, till the day you unpack in Singapore.

You should source for a reliable company with experience in overseas shipping, and preferably one that is affiliated to Singapore. Try to look for an international mover who has a good track record to give yourself peace of mind that your things are safe and in good hands. You may also want to compare a few quotes from various companies and thereafter ensure that both parties agree on the price (find out if they have other costs for insurance, custom fees, etc) to minimise on any disagreements after the move. For a list of movers that will help you with a painless transition, visit http://www.contactsingapore.sg/home/index.php/eng/moving_to_singapore/relocation.

Remember to document all your boxes and keep a record of the things inside each box so you may tally them quickly once they arrive in Singapore. Your moving company will help you with the unpacking and placing of furniture too. You may want to plan ahead of time where you want which items to be at.

Singapore prohibits the entrance of certain goods, so you may want to keep this in mind when you pack:

- Chewing gum (except dental or nicotine gum)
- Chewing tobacco and imitation tobacco products
- Cigarette lighters of pistol or revolver shape
- Controlled drugs and psychotropic substances
- Firecrackers
- Endangered species of wildlife and their by-products
- Obscene articles, publications, video tapes/discs and software
- Reproduction of copyright publications, video tapes, video compact discs, laser discs, records or cassettes
- Seditious and treasonable materials

It is an offence if you attempt to bring any of the items listed above into Singapore. For more details, please refer to this website: www.customs.gov.sg.

Relocation of pets

To import your pets (e.g. dogs, cats, ornamental birds, rabbits, guinea pigs etc), you must first obtain an import permit from the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) within 30 days prior to the date of arrival. Application for the permit can be made with the online form at this website: www.ava.gov.sg. Please allow two working days to process the permit upon receipt of the duly completed application. The import permit is valid for 30 days from the date of issue and the fee is S\$50 per permit.

Dogs & Cats

Singapore is free from dog diseases, such as rabies, that can pose a threat to the local dog population and can also infect humans. To continue such safety, all dogs brought into Singapore as of 1st May 2001, must be implanted with a microchip. The microchips - about the size of a grain of rice is implanted under the skin of a dog's neck and traces where an infected animal came from so that further imports can be blocked.

In order to facilitate the processing of import permits for mixed or cross breed dogs, AVA will require the applicant to attach a colour photo of the dog showing the face and body clearly. This is to help AVA to

identify the dog breed and ensure that it is not one of the breeds which is prohibited from import. The following breeds of dogs are banned in Singapore:

- Pit Bull, including the American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier and the American Bull Dog;
- Neapolitan Mastiff;
- Tosa;
- Akita;
- Dogo Argentino;
- Fila Brasileiro; and
- All crosses of these breeds

All dogs and cats imported from any country other than Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom and Ireland must be quarantined for at least 30 days at the Sembawang Animal Quarantine Station (SAQS), where the pets will be vaccinated against rabies. For details of veterinary conditions for imports, please refer to AVA's website. SAQS is very heavily booked, so you should apply for a quarantine space as early as two months in advance. Pets put on the waiting list will be notified of a successful application one month prior the indicated date of arrival. All charges are to be borne by the owner and it includes accommodation, transport to SAQS, veterinary examination and rabies vaccination.

The quarantine charges for 30 days at SAQS:	
Standard kennel/cattery	S\$ 643.00 per pet
Air-con kennel/cattery	S\$ 926.50 per pet

You may fly your pets as excess baggage or as cargo. For excess baggage pet shipment, owners must travel on the same flight, subject to the carrier's acceptance. For Manifest Cargo, the pet travelling will be checked in as manifest cargo by the carrier. This is normally arranged by a pet handling agent, who will book the shipment with the relevant carriers.

For more information on the relocation of pets to Singapore, please refer to this website:
<http://www.expatsingapore.com>

Other Animals

If you are importing bird(s) into Singapore, please check AVA website for the list of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) affected countries. The import of birds from these countries is currently suspended.

Import of the following does not require any AVA import permit:

- Ornamental fish if the amount of import falls under the personal allowance. For more information, please refer to <http://www.ava.gov.sg/InformationForTravellers/>.
- Terrapin / red-ear slider. However, a Letter of Authorisation must be obtained prior to import.

The import of insects as pets into Singapore is not allowed.

For the import of other types of personal pets – rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, gerbils, guinea pigs, and red-ear sliders, please visit <http://www.ava.gov.sg/>

Pet Handling Agent

Should you prefer to engage a one-stop service to handle all the necessary documentation and matters pertaining to the import and clearance of your pet(s), you may refer to the Pets Directory on this website: <http://www.i-pets.sg/index.php> or <http://www.petschannel.com/shoppeplace/?cc=6>

Within Singapore

If you are staying in a public Housing Development Board (HDB) flat, please note that only one dog is allowed, and not more than three dogs are allowed in non-HDB premises (including private housing). No cats are allowed in a HDB dwelling unit.

If you need someone to walk or play with your pet while you are at work or away on a conference, there is an option of using a dog walking service. A sample of charges is as follows:

Activity	Cost (S\$)
Dog park outings (park/beach) – 45 minutes	\$40 for the first dog, \$10 for each additional dog
Beach walk & swim (including shower and towel dry) – 45 minutes	\$70 for the first dog, \$10 for each additional dog
45-minute walk around the neighbourhood	\$20 for the first dog, \$5 for each additional dog
Dog sitting - 2 visits a day (inclusive of play time, feeding the dog, clearing of pet's soil and watering of plants)	\$55 for the first dog, \$5 for each additional dog

Source: <http://www.wholetthedogsout.com.sg/services/services.htm>