

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND PETS

Information about American and Polish Customs Requirements for Pets

American Customs Requirements

American customs regulations require that all domestic cats and dogs must be free of evidence of disease communicable to humans when examined at the port of entry. If the animal is not in apparent good health, further examination by a licensed veterinarian may be required at the owner's expense.

Dogs and **cats** must be vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days prior to entry into the United States. The certificate should be in English and should identify the dog, specify the date of vaccination and date of expiration, and bear the signature of a licensed veterinarian. If no date is specified, the certificate is acceptable if the date of vaccination is no more than 12 months before the date of arrival. If vaccination has not been accomplished or the certificate is not valid, the dog is confined to a place of the owner's choice and vaccinated; then the animal is confined for at least 30 days at the owners' cost.

Young puppies and kittens, less than 3 months old, cannot be vaccinated but they must be confined at a place of the owner's choice until they are 3 months old and then must be vaccinated. Confinement must then continue for 30 days at the owners' expense.

Polish Customs Requirements

Polish authorities require rabies shots and certificates ("świadcetwo zdrowia") before animals **leave the country**. Certificates are issued by the authorized City Veterinary Inspector in Krakow. For information on customs regulations in Warsaw, click [here](#).

Miejski Inspektorat Weterynary

ul. Lublańska # 11, Tel 411-25-69

Open weekdays from 8am – 3pm

Dogs should be first examined by private doctors, who will issue the animal a health certificate. In Krakow, the private veterinarian's certificate is valid for only **48 hours**, so the certificate should be brought to the approved veterinarian within two days. The veterinarian issues an official document, valid for **10 days** (according to the Main Veterinary Inspectorate in Warsaw), which is required by Polish border authorities before departure. Rabies vaccinations must be done at least 30 days (but not longer than one year) before the departure date, otherwise the regional

veterinarian refuses to issue his certificate.

The shipment of cats and dogs to Poland is permitted upon receipt of an official veterinary certificate by border authorities. It is the policy of Polish authorities to recognize this document as valid, as long as the vaccination certificate demonstrates, that rabies shots were given no earlier than 6 months before and no later than 4 weeks before entering Polish territory and that the health certificate was issued within the last 3 days before the entry by a qualified veterinarian. The health certificate should also state that within last 3 months and in the 8 miles radius, no rabies incidents were recorded. It does not concern animals less than 2 months of age; for those over three months of age from the 30th day until the end of the 12th month after the date of the first vaccination. In case of revaccination for 12 months from the date of revaccination.

Veterinary doctors in Krakow:

The American Consulate General in Krakow assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the persons or cooperatives whose names are listed below. By law, the Consulate may not specifically recommend any of the entities on the list.

English and Polish-speaking veterinarians:

Klinika Weterynaryjna Arka s.c.

Piotr Derkowski, Jerzy Gawor
30-806 Kraków ul. Chłopska 2a
e-mail: arka@pp.com.pl
tel: 10**12/658-83-65
<http://www.arka-vet.pl/>

Rafał Korta

012-278-18-00
0602-777-601

Polish-speaking only:

Krak-Vet

ul. Sanocka 3
012-655-55-33