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## Information

# Retroactive customs clearance of pets

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**This information letter provides information on the retroactive customs clearance / declaration of imported pets.**

The **practical procedure** for the customer / pet owner in the case of retroactive customs clearance is explained under **point 2**.

The legal basis and the correct procedure for importing pets to Switzerland are brought to mind under point 1.

### 1 Border crossing with pets

According to Art. 21 and 24 of the Customs Act, goods must be brought immediately and unaltered to the nearest customs office and be declared.

Article 19 of the Regulation on the Import, Transit and Export of Pets (EDAV-Ht) stipulates that when importing or transiting pets for which a pet passport, veterinary certificate or permit is required, the keeper or authorized person must present the pet, the pet passport, the veterinary certificate or permit to the customs administration.

This means that the pet owner or the authorized person must always import pets at a **designated border crossing point during the opening hours** and **declare them to the customs authorities**. This also applies, when the value of the pet is below the value exemption limit of currently Fr. 300.00. No grace period is granted for retroactive customs clearance.

Further information can be found on the Internet:

- Opening hours of the border crossing points: <https://www.offices.customs.admin.ch/?lang=4>
- Dogs, cats, domestic animals (FOCBS): <https://www.bazg.admin.ch/bazg/en/home/information-individuals/animals-and-plants/dogs--cats--domestic-animals.html>
- Dogs, cats and ferrets (FSVO): <https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/en/home/tiere/reisen-mit-heimtieren/hunde-katzen-und-frettchen.html>

## 2 Retroactive customs clearance - practical proceedings

Requests for **retroactive customs clearance** of pet animals must be submitted without exception to the Pet Competence Center of the FOCBS (KoHe). The provided notification form must be used for this purpose:

- Notification form: <https://www.bazg.admin.ch/bazg/en/home/information-individuals/animals-and-plants/dogs--cats--domestic-animals.html>  
(download link in the right column under "Documents").

Requests must be submitted to the KoHe by e-mail: [KoHe@bazg.admin.ch](mailto:KoHe@bazg.admin.ch).

As it may take some time to process the submitted dossier, **the original pet passport should only be sent in at the completion of the case, as you are requested to do so by the KoHe.**

## 3 Further Proceedings

The staff of the Pet Competence Center will contact you as soon as possible.

The Pet Competence Center will collect the owed value added tax. We reserve the right to initiate penal proceedings due to infringement of affected legal decrees.

After completion of the formalities, you send the original pet passport to the Pet Competence Center. This will stamp the pet passport and return it to you.

## 4 Contact details of the Pet Competence Center

Bundesamt für Zoll und Grenzsicherheit  
Kompetenzzentrum Heimtiere  
Zoll West  
Bielstrasse 1, 3902 Brig-Glis  
Tel. +41 58 469 39 61 (Mo.-Fr. 09:00-11:00)  
[KoHe@bazg.admin.ch](mailto:KoHe@bazg.admin.ch)