

# Paws Down Under: A Veterinarian's Guide to Preparing Pets For Travel

## Australia & New Zealand

with GVL's Pet Travel  
Conceirge Team



**GlobalVetLink**  
Your Animal Health Compliance Assistant

## Import Requirements: **Why So Strict?**

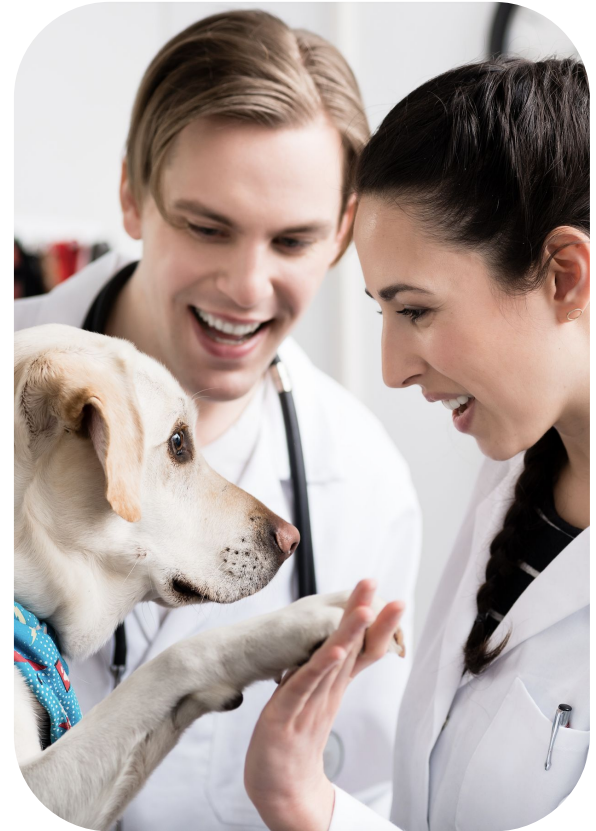
- Australia is a rabies-free *continent*
- New Zealand is a rabies-free country
- Strict biosecurity laws to protect native and local wildlife, agriculture, environment, and people!
- Prohibited dog breeds and hybrids
- Prohibited hybrid cat breeds
- Outlined information reflects pet travel from the U.S.



# Part I: Understanding The Basics:

## Must-Haves for AU and NZ

- ISO Compatible Microchip
- Rabies Vaccination
- Rabies Neutralizing Antibody (RNAT) Test
- Additional Vaccinations
- Additional Tests
- *Situational Tests and Treatments*
- Parasite Treatments
- Import Permit
- Post-Entry Quarantine Reservation
- International Health Certificate
- Travel Kennel USDA Crate Seal (NZ)



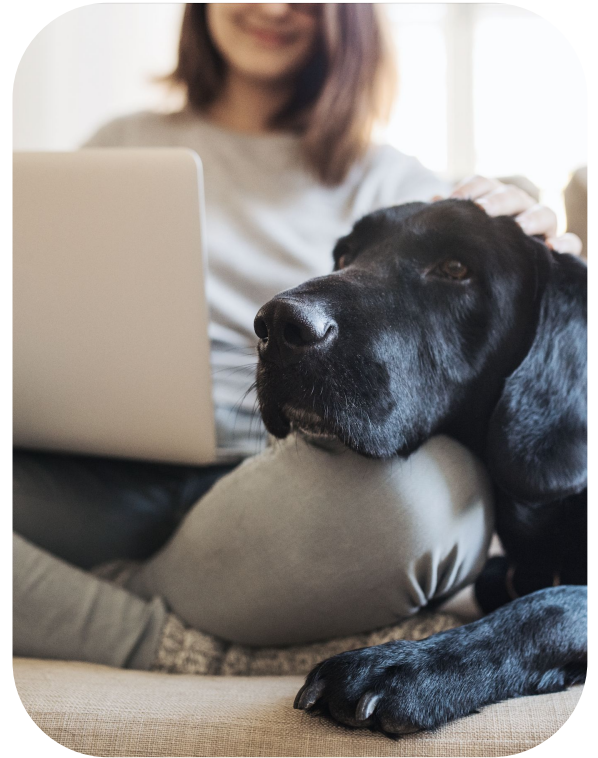
**⚠ Critical: USDA Accredited Veterinarian  
For ALL steps**



# Part I: Understanding The Basics

## Prepare Early!

- Budget 12 - 6 months for the entire preparation from start → international departure date
- AU: Minimum 6 months waiting period **after blood sample for RNATT is received at approved laboratory**
- NZ: Minimum 3 month waiting period after blood sample for RNATT is drawn; Primary rabies vax must be 6 months old
- Pet's confirmed travel date hinges post-entry quarantine booking reservation




# Part II: Step-by-Step Preparations: Australia Overview

## AU Country Required

- ISO Compatible Microchip
- Rabies Vaccination 
- Rabies Neutralizing Antibody (RNAT) Test 
- RNATT Declaration 
- Canine Influenza Vax 
- Leptospirosis Vax  (or test)
- Test for Leishmaniasis 
- External Parasite Treatment(s)
- Internal Parasite Treatment(s)
- Test for Brucellosis (situational) 
- Babesia canis treatment (situational) 
  
- Australia IHC 

## More AU Country Required

- Import Permit
- Post-Entry Quarantine Reservation

 *Recommended Strongly Recommended Not Required:  
ID Verification Declaration*



# Part II: Step-by-Step Preparations: NZ Overview

## NZ Required: Country

- ISO Compatible Microchip
- Rabies Vaccination 
- Rabies Neutralizing Antibody (RNAT) Test 
- Official Veterinary Declaration 
- Leptospirosis Treatment (or test) 
- Heartworm Test 
- Test for Babsia gibsoni 
- External Parasite Treatment(s)
- Internal Parasite Treatment(s)
- Heartworm Treatment
- *Test for Babesia canis (situational)* 
  
- New Zealand IHC 

## NZ Required: Quarantine

- DHPP 
- Bordetella 
- Canine Influenza 
- FVRCP 

## Add'l Country Required:

- Import Permit
- Quarantine Booking
- USDA Crate Seal Appointment
- Model Certificate B (USDA to issue at crate seal appointment)





# Part II: Step-by-Step Preparations: Microchip Verifying

## New Zealand

**Step 1:** Microchip implant or scan



Proof needed for implant or oldest scan date



Best practice: Record in patient chart mc was scanned



**Step 2:** Rabies Vaccination (primary or a booster)



Booster must be given before previous vax has expired and within 12 months before travel



Best practice: Microchip listed on rabies vax certificate

**Note:** Any rabies vaccinations given before the microchip implant or oldest scan date are not recognized as accepted



**Don't Forget! Always scan the chip!**





## Part II: Initial Eligibility and Timelines

- 📋 Microchip status
- 📋 Rabies vaccination status → risk of expiry?
- 📋 Rabies vaccination status → chances of RNAT test passing results?

### 🩸 RNAT Test

Passing test result of  $\geq 0.5$  IU/mL or higher = move forward


Not passing test result = revaccination and re-draw blood = AU 6 month countdown starts over

Not passing test result = revaccination and re-draw blood = NZ 3 month countdown starts over

- Consider the entire prep process is split into two halves
  - Phase I: Work forwards from beginning → Quarantine Booking = Firm Travel Date
  - Phase II: Work backwards from Firm Travel Date = Calculate timing for required tests and treatments to be completed within 45 or 30 days before travel date

## Part II: Rabies Vaccination(s) and Declarations

### Rabies AU



3 year validity is acceptable 


Keep continuously valid before RNATT blood draw → Date of Travel

### Rabies NZ

If primary: Date given must be 6 months old before travel date, no older than 12 months before travel

If booster: given before previous vax lapses and can't be 12+ months old before travel

 *Think of the Declarations = notarized USDA  microchip, rabies vax, and RNAT testing all completed by USDA Accredited DVM*

-  Endorsed Declaration is needed for import permit application
- Import permit is needed for quarantine booking
- Quarantine booking firmly determines target travel date





# Part II: Rabies Vaccination(s) and Declarations

## Australia




### RNATT Declaration

- Rabies certificate(s)
- RNATT Results
-  No DVM Prefill
-  Electronically endorsed

## New Zealand






### Official Veterinary Declaration (OVD)

- Rabies certificate(s)
- Proof of Microchip scan/implant date
- RNATT Results
-  DVM to Prefill & Sign OVD form
- USDA endorsement required



## Part II: Vaccinations: Quarantine Required List





### Australia Dog 🐕

-  Rabies
-  Canine Influenza
-  Leptospirosis  
(if not testing)



### Australia Cat 🐈

-  Rabies

### NZ Dog 🐕




-  Rabies
-  Canine Influenza (Quarantine)
-  DHPP (Quarantine)
-  Bordetella (Quarantine)

### NZ Cat 🐈





-  Rabies
-  FVRCP (Quarantine)

## Part II: Treatments and Blood Tests

AU Required lab tests for dogs:



-  Leishmaniasis
-  Brucellosis (intact only)
-  Leptospirosis (if not vax)

NZ Required lab tests for dogs:

-  Heartworm
-  Brucella canis
-  Babesia canis (if visited/lived in South Africa)
-  Leptospirosis (if not treatment)

*Lepto Treatment is 14 consecutive day Doxycycline Rx  
NZ also requires heartworm treatment*

AU and NZ Treatments 🐶 🐱

-  Internal Parasite Treatment(s)
-  External Parasite Treatment(s)



# Quarantine and Booking Travel

👉 Post-Entry Quarantine is mandatory

👉 Confirmation of Quarantine Booking for Flight Booking Required

Australia Quarantine:

📅 30 Day standard

📅 10 Day with Completed ID Verification  
One facility option

Australia Quarantine:

📅 10 Day standard

Multiple facility options for O to choose from

## Airlines

✈️ Qantas Airlines







✈️ Air New Zealand

! No in-cabin travel permitted














# Final Veterinary Checks and IHC

## Australia

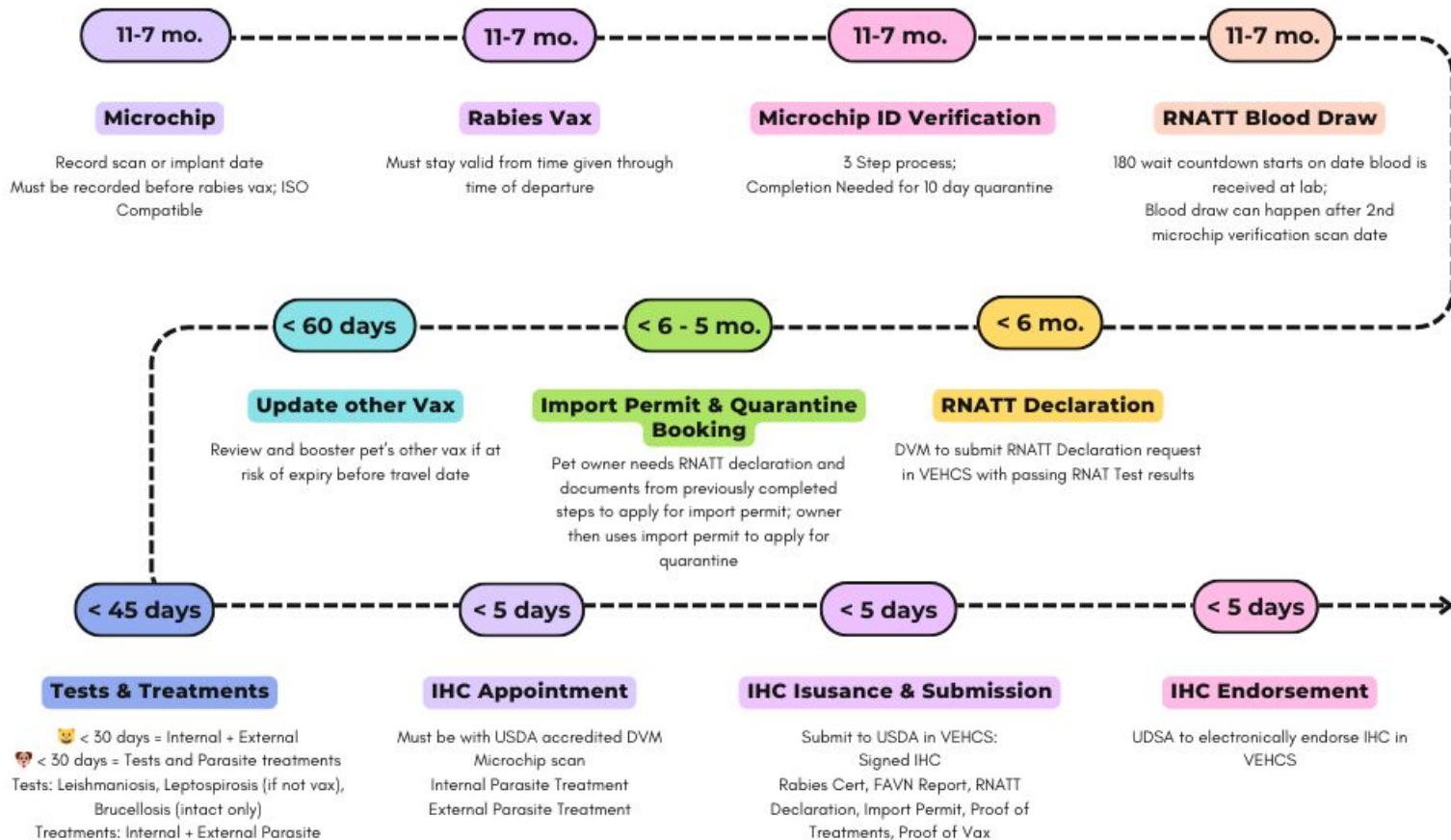
-  Within 5 days of departure
-  Microchip Scan
-  Internal Parasite Treatment(s)
-  External Parasite Treatment(s)
-  International Health Certificate
-  Electronic IHC endorsement

## New Zealand

-  Within 2 days of departure
-  Microchip Scan
-  Internal Parasite Treatment(s)
-  External Parasite Treatment(s)
-  Heartworm Treatment 
-  International Health Certificate
-  AM appointment recommended
-  Physical IHC endorsement
-  USDA Crate Seal Appointment
-  USDA issues Model Certificate B

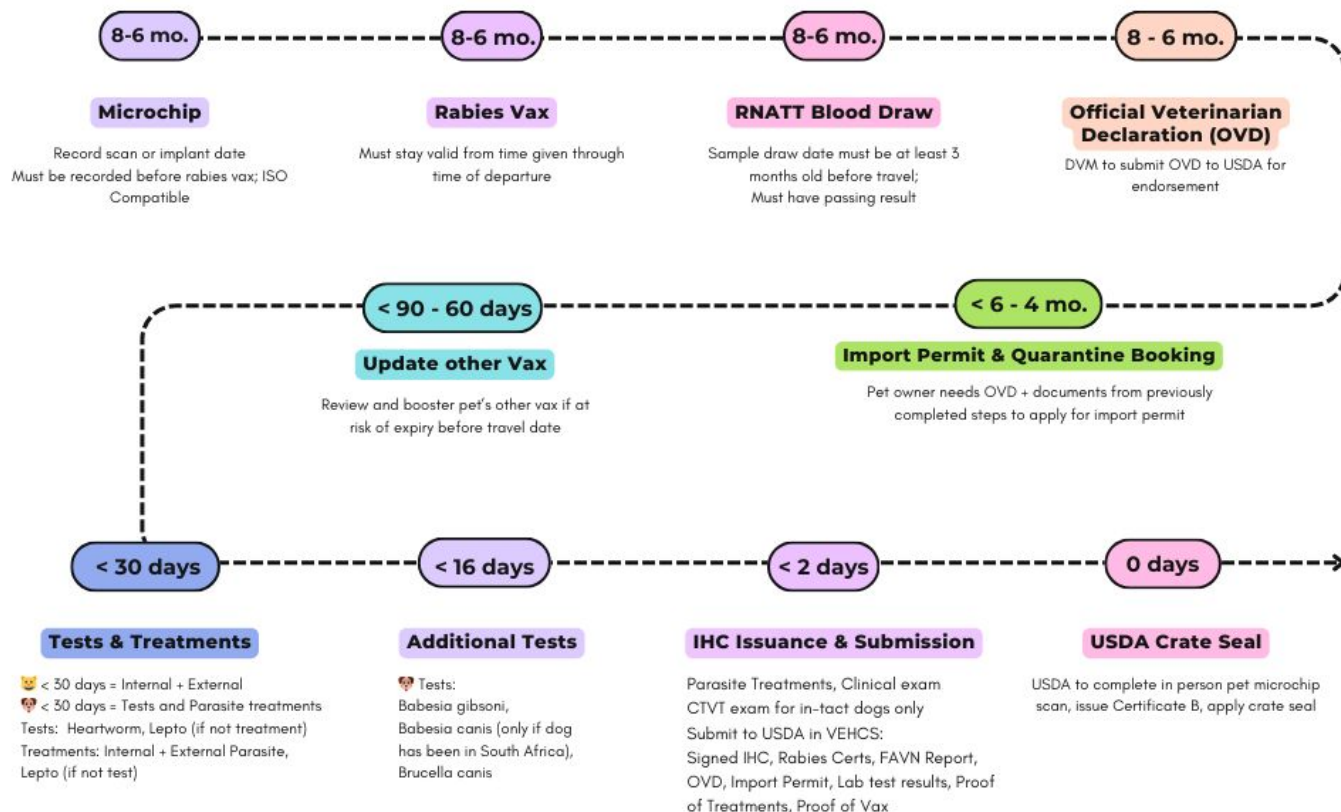


# Putting It All Together: Australia Timeline





# Putting It All Together: New Zealand Timeline



## Part III: Common Challenges and Solutions

! DVM USDA accreditation

RNAT Test re-done and 6 month countdown restarted

🕒 Timing of treatments and testing → completing all within time range and not missing coverage

🕒 No quarantine booking = No firm travel date to plan for tests and treatments

! Tip: Scan the microchip always and list on every document!

# Part III: Tips To Stay Organized

👉 Tip: Use a timeline to stay on track

## CURRENT VACCINATION/TEST INFO

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rabies	Date Given: 18/01/2023	Date Due: 18/01/2026
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rabies (Previous)	Date Given: 17/02/2021	Date Due: 17/02/2024
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rabies Antibody Titer Test (FAVN/RNATT Lab Report)	Test Date: 16/11/2023	Result: Passed
<input type="checkbox"/> FVRCP (Recommended)	Date Given:	Date Due:

## VETERINARY REQUIREMENTS OVERVIEW

Items required for import to Australia for cats:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Microchip	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RNATT Declaration (USDA Endorsed)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rabies Vaccination	<input type="checkbox"/> External parasite treatment(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> AU Veterinary Health Certificate: Appendix 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal parasite treatments

## VET VISIT TIMELINE

- January 2024 | RNATT Declaration Submission and USDA Endorsement (2nd RNATT)**  
*GlobalVetLink to partner with Alpenglow Animal Hospital to submit FAVN Report and accompanying documents to the USDA to obtain electronically endorsed RNATT Declaration. This will accompany the existing endorsed RNATT Declaration.*
- January - February 2024 | Pet Owner to Schedule Appointment for Vet Visit #1**  
*Appointment to be scheduled with USDA accredited Veterinarian*
- February 19, 2024 | GVL to Email Guided Appointment Instructions for Vet Visit #1**  
*GVL will email guided appointment instructions and any additional documents needed to*

👉 Tip: Reduce paperwork with a treatment document or letter

I certify that the below information is accurate and related to the pet described above:

- I have scanned the microchip and confirmed it is functioning properly
- I have examined the patient for external parasites
- I have treated the patient with an external parasite treatment that kills fleas and ticks on contact
- I have treated the patient with an internal parasite treatment that is effective against nematodes and cestodes

## External Parasite Treatment Details

Product Name:	Active Ingredient(s):	Date Administered:
Frontline Gold	Fipronil, (S)-methoprene, pyriproxyfen	March 04, 2024

## Internal Parasite Treatment Details

Product Name:	Active Ingredient(s):	Date Administered:
Merck - Oral liquid suspension	Fenbendazole	March 04, 2024

Date: March 04, 2024

USDA accredited Veterinarian's Signature:

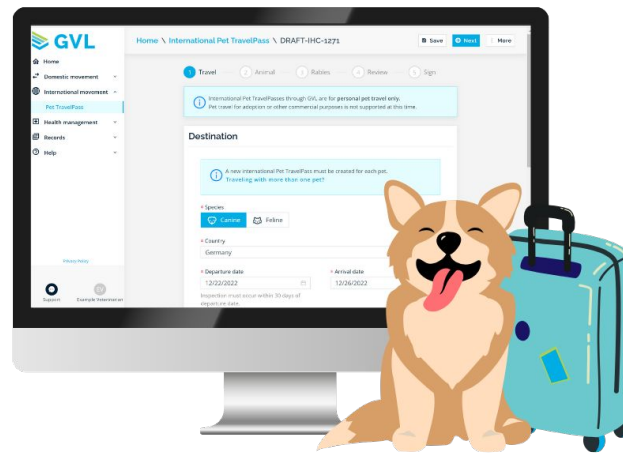
USDA accredited Veterinarian's Name (Printed):  
Lic No.:



# Conclusion and Q&A

## Key Takeaways:

- 🐾 Rigorous process with a lot of moving parts
- 🐾 Lengthy timeline → work forwards to then calculate backwards
- 🐾 Pet ownership of import permit and quarantine booking
- 🐾 Consider GVL Pet Travel Concierge Service to keep you & pet owner organized



Questions?