



## IN THE KNOW: 1st MAW Resource Tool

### Preparing Pets for Overseas PCS Move: Vaccines

Preparing to transport pets overseas can be a very daunting task. Early preparations is key to a smooth and successful transition. Members must be prepared to cover a number of cost when moving pets overseas. This may also include the cost of transportations in some cases. Although the transportation of pets (dogs and cats) is permissible, it is not an entitlement.

#### Please note the following:

- ❖ **Japan discourages bringing animals (cats and dogs) under the age of 12 months as these pets often do not meet all vaccine/test requirements.**
- ❖ **Pets under the age of 12 months can be imported but must start with a 180 day quarantine period.**

**Step 1:** Microchip your pet. The microchip number must be included on the rabies and health certificates and on the Fluorescent Antibody Viral Neutralization (FAVN) Results form.

#### **Step 2:** Vaccinations

- a) Rabies shots must be administered between 30 days and 12 months before departure. All dogs and cats arriving from a non-rabies free country or area must be vaccinated twice at least 31 days apart with an inactivated rabies vaccine at least 30 days and not more than 12 months prior to arriving and must show a history of 2 rabies vaccinations.
- b) Bordetella vaccination (kennel cough) must be administered between 3 days and 12 months before boarding at on base facility in Okinawa.
- c) All dogs and cats must have a Fluorescent Antibody Viral Neutralization (FAVN) Test performed. This test measures the protective antibody level against rabies.

#### **Step 3:** Obtain Health Certificate

- a) Health certificate must be completed with 10 of departure. Contact airline to verify policy. Some airlines require the health certificate be dated within two to three days of your flight.
- b) Take rabies tag and certificate to vet appointment.
- c) If seen by military vet, Form 2208 and 2209 should be issued and signed by attending veterinarian.
- d) Ensure there is a raised USDA seal stamp on rabies and health certificate if your pet is seen by a civilian veterinarian. Documents must be signed by attending veterinarian.

Forms can be found at [http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/r\\_doc.aspx](http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/r_doc.aspx).