Petavia

How to Move Your Cat or Dog from Poland to Australia on Your Own

A complete step-by-step guide: where to go in Poland, which documents you need, the deadlines, the blood tests, the Australian import permit, quarantine at PEQ Mickleham and exactly what it all costs

Version 1.1 · data verified 22 September 2026 · updated 21 October 2026
Based on the official requirements of the Australian Department of Agriculture (DAFF) and on real-world experience of moving animals out of Poland since 2010

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What's inside

This guide walks you through the entire journey: from the first check of whether your animal can be exported at all, to the moment you collect them from quarantine outside Melbourne. Everything is written in the order you will actually do it, and tied to Polish institutions: exactly where to go, what happens there, and what it costs.

> **Three rules that will save you six months and several thousand złoty**
>
> 1. Do nothing at the vet until you have read this guide to the end. Half of all failures are the right actions done in the wrong order.
> 2. All the key procedures go through the **county veterinary inspectorate** (Powiatowy Inspektorat Weterynarii) for your place of residence. An ordinary clinic only does part of the work.
> 3. No mistake can be fixed retroactively. Each one means starting over and waiting at least another 180 days.

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> **Who this guide is for**
>
> For anyone exporting a cat or dog **from Poland**. Poland is a Group 3 country under Australia's classification — a country where rabies is present but controlled. If you are exporting from another country, the order of the steps will differ.

> **How the boxes work**
>
> Boxes marked "In practice" are experience from real transports — things you will not find on the official website. Boxes marked "Important" are where people go wrong most often.

1. Can your animal be exported at all

Check this before you spend a single złoty. If even one point fails, there is no point going further.

Deal-breaker 1: dog breed

Australia will not admit these breeds under any documentation. The ban comes from customs and environmental law rather than from biosecurity, so no exceptions are made:

- American Pit Bull Terrier (Pit Bull Terrier)
- Dogo Argentino
- Fila Brasileiro
- Japanese Tosa
- Perro de Presa Canario (Presa Canario)

Dog–wolf hybrids are separately banned: Czechoslovakian Wolfdog, Saarloos Wolfdog, Lupo Italiano, Kunming Wolfdog.

Crossbreeds are allowed provided every other condition is met. But if a banned breed is visible in the dog, the border looks at the animal, not at the paperwork. If your dog looks like a pit bull, prepare documentation of its parentage in advance.

> **Important**
> If your dog is identified as a banned breed once already in Australia, it will be exported back or euthanised at your expense.

Deal-breaker 2: cat breed

Cats produced by crossing with wild species are not admitted: Savannah, Safari, Chausie, Bengal. Bengals used to be granted exceptions for distant generations — since 1 March 2026 the breed is banned outright.

Deal-breaker 3: 180 days of residence in an approved country

The animal must have lived continuously in an approved country for at least 180 days before export. For Poland this is met automatically. But if the animal recently arrived from, say, Ukraine or Kazakhstan, the count starts again.

> **This is not quarantine**
> During those 180 days the animal lives a normal life: at home with you, or with whoever you entrusted it to in an approved country.

Deal-breaker 4: condition and reproductive status

Animals under quarantine restrictions, more than 30 days pregnant, or nursing young are not admitted for export.

Deal-breaker 5: age and health

There is no formal ban, but the Department explicitly advises against moving sick or very elderly animals: the flight and the change of climate are hard on them, and strict rules govern the administration of medication in quarantine.

2. The core logic: four dates

The entire process hangs on four dates. Once you understand how they relate to each other, everything else becomes simple.

Date 1. Identity verification at the inspectorate

The inspector reads the microchip and sends confirmation directly to Australia. Done **before** the blood draw, and as a **separate appointment**.

This date decides whether quarantine is 10 days or 30. The difference is 1,120 AUD — about 695 EUR.

Date 2. The RNATT blood draw

Taken 21 days after the rabies vaccination, i.e. from day 22 onwards. The validity of the test — **365 days** — runs from this date.

Date 3. The sample's arrival at the laboratory

It is from this day — not from the vaccination and not from the blood draw — that the **180 days** are counted, before which the animal will not be admitted to Australia.

> **In practice**
>
> If the blood reached the laboratory on 15 January, count 180 days from 15 January. Write this date down immediately — it is the single most important date in the whole process.

Date 4. The departure date

It must fall inside the window: **no earlier than day 180** after the sample reached the laboratory, and **no later than day 365** from the blood draw.

> **Why the window is narrower than it looks**
>
> Import permits officially take 20–40 business days to assess, and up to 123 business days in complex cases. And the permit is only valid until the RNATT expires. Plan with a margin.

EVENT	WHEN
Microchip and pet passport	First of all, before anything else
Identity verification at the inspectorate	Separate appointment, before the blood draw
Rabies vaccination	After microchipping, animal at least 84 days old
Wait	21 days
RNATT blood draw	From day 22. Starts the 365-day validity clock
Sample arrives in Puławy	Starts the 180-day clock to departure
RNATT declaration at the inspectorate	As soon as the result is in
Import permit application	Immediately after the declaration
Quarantine booking	Only after the permit is granted
Tests and treatments	Final 45 days; exact dates are in the permit
Health certificate	5 days before departure
Departure	Between day 180 and day 365

End of the free sample

You have read 2 of 21 chapters. The full guide covers the day-by-day preparation calendar, the Polish veterinary inspectorate, the RNATT blood test in Puławy, the Australian import permit, quarantine, the crate and flight, exact costs, 12 mistakes that restart the clock, checklists and the official forms.

Full guide — €100 (PDF, 4 languages, 7 files).
If you later hire us to handle the move, we deduct the €100 from our fee.

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