

MINA' BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2008 (SECOND) Regular Session

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Bill No. 312 (EC)

Introduced by:

Frank T. Ishizaki

James V. Espada

AN ACT TO AMEND §34301 AND TO REPEAL AND RE-ENACT §34302(a) AND §34302(b), ALL OF ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 34, TITLE 10 GCA, RELATIVE TO ANIMAL QUARANTINE REGULATION.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

2 Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that current animal quarantine laws are overly cumbersome to individuals
4 visiting or relocating to Guam. Often, travelers to Guam research
5 requirements for bringing their pets to the island, only to be needlessly
6 confused by antiquated standards and confusing language.

7 *I Liheslatura* further finds that the World Health Organization and the

1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently recognizes Guam,
2 among very few jurisdictions in the world, as “rabies free.” It is the intent of *I*
3 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* to enhance efficiency and reduce confusion in animal
4 quarantine regulation, and still maintain a “rabies-free” designation through
5 stringent veterinary standards.

6 **Section 2.** §34301 of Article 3 of Chapter 34 of Title 10 of the Guam
7 Code Annotated is *amended* to read:

8 “For the purposes of this Article:

9 (a) *Carrier* means any individual, partnership, corporation or any other
10 group or combination acting in concert which shall transport any animal into,
11 through or upon Guam.

12 (b) *Designated inspection area* means an area designated by the Director of
13 Agriculture (the Director).

14 (c) *Dog or cat* means those animals belonging to the order Carnivora,
15 including dogs, wolves, foxes, skunks, raccoons, cats, civets, hyenas, weasels,
16 wolverines; the order Marsupialia, including opossums, koalas, kangaroos;
17 and the order Chiroptera, including bats.

18 (d) *Impoundment* means strict confinement under restraint by leash, cage
19 or paddock upon premises specified by order of the Director.

20 (e) *International Unit* means a unit of measure agreed upon by scientists
21 of a field (I.U.).

1 (f) ~~(e)~~ *Officer* means a member of the Guam Police Department, a Mayor
2 of Guam, or a person authorized by the Director.

3 (g) OIE-FAVN means the World Organisation for Animal Health
4 Fluorescent Antibody Virus Neutralization test, a type of blood test used to
5 determine the quantity of rabies antibodies in the bloodstream.

6 (h) ~~(f)~~ *Quarantine* means strict isolated impoundment.

7 (i) ~~(g)~~ *Rabies* means the acute infectious disease of the central nervous
8 system caused by a filterable virus, most frequently transmitted by the bite of
9 infected animals and commonly referred to “hydrophobia”.

10 (j) Titer means a concentration of a substance in a solution.

11 **Section 3.** §34302(a) and §34302(b) of Article 3 of Chapter 34 of Title 10
12 of the Guam Code Annotated are *repealed and re-enacted* to read:

13 “(a) Quarantine unit. The Department of Agriculture (the Department)
14 shall maintain a dog or cat quarantine unit, provide and carry out a
15 quarantine program to receive incoming dogs or cats upon arrival on the
16 island, ensure that such dogs or cats are examined within twenty-four (24)
17 hours upon arrival and twenty-four (24) hours prior to release from
18 quarantine by a licensed veterinarian and provide for the health and well-
19 being of such dogs or cats for the duration of their quarantine, including the
20 administering of necessary immunization shots by a licensed veterinarian at
21 the quarantine unit at the expense of the owner.

1 (b)(1) Quarantine of Dogs and Cats. All dogs and cats brought into
2 Guam shall be subject to quarantine for a period of time approved by the
3 Director pursuant to this Section. Requirements for the entry to and release
4 from quarantine of dogs and cats brought into Guam shall be a maximum of
5 one hundred twenty (120) days. Any and all costs, including care and keep,
6 shall be borne by the dog or cat owner. At the time of release from
7 quarantine, the pet must have completed not less than two properly
8 documented inactivated rabies vaccinations, and the most recent rabies
9 vaccination must be current. The pet must also be current for other routine
10 vaccinations as established by the Territorial Veterinarian.

11 (b)(2) Quarantine Length. Pets that have received a properly implanted
12 approved identification microchip and have a protective titer against rabies as
13 documented by a laboratory approved by the Director of Agriculture may
14 spend less than the full one hundred twenty (120) days in enforced
15 quarantine. The quarantine period is calculated from the date the blood
16 arrives at the approved laboratory. If the animal receives an import permit
17 and arrives on Guam before the one hundred twenty (120) days has passed,
18 the animal may be allowed to spend only those remaining days in enforced
19 quarantine, rather than the full one hundred twenty (120) days. If one
20 hundred twenty (120) or more days have passed since the blood with a
21 protective titer arrived at the laboratory, and if all other requirements have

1 been met, the animal must complete on Guam a quarantine period of five (5)
2 days or less and a physical examination by a veterinarian approved by the
3 Director of Agriculture. The five (5) day or less quarantine program requires
4 the following pre-arrival requirements for each pet before the pet may be
5 released:

6 (i) Vaccinations. Two (2) rabies vaccinations, with the last
7 vaccination administered no more than twelve (12) months prior
8 to arrival a one (1) year vaccine was administered, or not more
9 than thirty-six (36) months prior to arrival if a three (3) year or
10 longer vaccine was administered. The two (2) vaccinations may
11 not be administered within thirty (30) days of each other; and the
12 last vaccine must be administered no less than thirty (30) days
13 prior to the pet's entry into Guam.

14 (ii) Microchip. A microchip approved by the Territorial
15 Veterinarian for identification purposes must be implanted in the
16 pet.

17 (iii) Blood Serum Tests. Blood serum OIE-FAVN test results or the
18 results of a test recognized by the World Organisation for Animal
19 Health as being able to determine levels of rabies antibodies must
20 indicate a sufficient level of rabies antibodies. Such results shall
21 be from a laboratory approved by the Director of Agriculture

1 (iv) Pre-arrival waiting period. The pre-arrival waiting period
2 determines the duration of enforced quarantine on Guam only for
3 those properly vaccinated animals with an approved microchip
4 and a properly documented protective titer against rabies. If such
5 an animal arrives on Guam less than one hundred twenty (120)
6 days after the blood arrived at the approved laboratory, then the
7 animal must spend the remaining days in enforced quarantine on
8 Guam unless the pet qualifies for the home quarantine option.

9 (v) Home quarantine option. After completing the initial five (5)
10 days or less of enforced quarantine on Guam, those animals with
11 a high titer of protective rabies antibodies (at least twice the
12 minimum titer of 0.05 I.U. per milliliter of blood) may complete
13 the remainder of the post-arrival quarantine at home. The owner
14 must keep the pet isolated from other animals during this time.
15 Failure to do so can result in the pet being placed in enforced
16 quarantine for the remainder of the quarantine period at the
17 owner's expense. At the end of the home quarantine period the
18 animal requires another physical examination by an approved
19 veterinarian for final release from quarantine.

20 (vi) Paperwork submission. Pet owners must submit evidence of
21 required vaccinations and blood serum tests at least ten (10) days

1 prior to the pet’s arrival. These items must be sent directly from
2 the laboratory, not hand-carried by the pet owner.

3
4 The Department of Agriculture may require at any time within one
5 hundred twenty (120) days after arrival on Guam that results from off-island
6 laboratory tests be validated. If not confirmed to the satisfaction of the
7 Department of Agriculture, then the Department of Agriculture may,
8 pursuant to rules and regulations, place the pet in further quarantine or take
9 other appropriate action.

10 The Department of Agriculture is authorized to promulgate rules and
11 regulations in accordance with this Subsection.”