



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITY-JAPAN
UNIT 45005, APO AP 96343-5005

MCHB-RP-J

17 July 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR Public Health Activity-Japan (PHA-J) All Personnel, United States Forces Japan (USFJ) / J43, Yokota Air Base, APO AP 96328

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Human Restriction of Movement (ROM) of Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) Members Traveling Into Japan with Pet(s)

1. BACKGROUND: The present global pandemic due to COVID-19 has resulted in a number of changes in the movement of United States Armed Forces personnel, DoD Civilians, and dependents around the world. These changes have sought to decrease or break the chain of transmission of COVID-19 and protect the readiness of the operational forces.

a. Because privately owned animals (e.g. pets, service animals, and emotional support animals) have become a regular component of Permanent Change of Station moves, they have secondarily been affected as SOFA members have had travel plans changed or altered.

b. Within Japan, arriving SOFA members traveling from a banned country or area including the United States are subject to ROM IAW COMUSFJ Public Health Order (25 MAR 20) as directed by medical personnel and Installation Commanders. ROM is a 14-day period with an emphasis on COVID-19 mitigation measures, and it applies to Armed Forces and civilian components alike. As a point of emphasis, **this is distinct from quarantine of animals entering Japan under the Rabies Prevention Law as stipulated by the Government of Japan (GoJ).**

(1) The objective of the Rabies Prevention Law is to prevent the introduction of rabies and to maintain the public health and public welfare status of the country of Japan. The GoJ Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has mandated quarantine of pets under Paragraph 2 of Article 7 of the Rabies Prevention Law Quarantine procedures which are carried out IAW the Regulations for Import and Export Quarantine of Dogs and other designated animals (Ordinance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries).

c. The current ROM period impacts travelers arriving to Japan via commercial flights as the entire 14-day ROM period must be completed before continuing on a domestic flight to the final destination and / or at the final destination. At present, travelers are being diverted to USFJ installations to complete this ROM period.

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2. RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVELERS AND PETS:

The following measures are highly recommended or required when ROM coincides with animal quarantine. Adherence of these measures should be **facilitated by the gaining unit of the SOFA Member traveling into Japan with pet(s):**

a. Travelers arriving to Japan at commercial airports (e.g. Narita, Haneda, Chubu, Fukuoka, or Naha Airports) must report to the airport's Animal Quarantine Service (AQS) counter upon arrival to initiate the quarantine process of their pets. This process includes a pet import quarantine inspection and issuance of the MDJ Form 270 (assignment of animal quarantine period).

b. Travelers arriving to Japan on the AMC Patriot Express must have their pets inspected by US Forces veterinary service officials at the AMC terminal to initiate the quarantine process of their pets.

c. Travelers and pet(s) will then conduct movement via Government Owned Vehicles, and ROM will be conducted at the designated USFJ installation close to the port of disembarkation into Japan. **SOFA members will travel directly from the airport to the USFJ installation(s) with their pet(s) as they are restricted to allow their pet(s) to enter the general population of Japan while under AQS quarantine status.**

d. Keeping animals with the family or unit is strongly advised for the period of time during ROM. Arrangements for pet-friendly temporary lodging can be made through gaining units. Alternatively, FSS / MWR animal kennels may be utilized, if available. However, **at no point will SOFA members take animals off of the USFJ installation during the ROM period and animal quarantine period. Pets are restricted from leaving installation before completing the up to 180-day quarantine requirement (assigned by AQS) and final quarantine exam approved by the Official Veterinarian at the nearest VTF.**

(1) Pet owners undergoing ROM must notify (phone call or email) the nearest respective VTF within **72 hours** of arrival to Japan for further guidance and a health and quarantine screening of pet(s) over the phone. Emergency animal care services will be provided by the VTF during this time.

(a) The contact numbers for the PHA-J VTFs are as follows:

Camp Zama	DSN: 263-3875 / COMM: 046-407-3875
Iwakuni MCAS	DSN: 253-6471 / COMM: 0827-79-6471
Kadena AB (All Okinawa)	DSN: 966-7593 / COMM: 036-868-2263
Misawa AB	DSN: 226-4502 / COMM: 0176-77-4502
Sasebo NB	DSN: 252-3585 / COMM: 0956-50-3585
Yokota AB	DSN: 225-4363 / COMM: 042-552-2510-54363
Yokosuka NB	DSN: 243-6820 / COMM: 046-816-6820

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(2) If more than one ROM period is required during the travel journey for SOFA Members with pets, they must notify (phone call or email) the nearest respective VTF within **72 hours** of the start of **each ROM period and for ROM at the final destination in Japan**.

(3) During the time pet owners are conducting ROM, they should **not** physically report to the VTF.

(4) Pet owners can either physically bring pet(s) to the VTF or schedule a virtual health appointment in advance for the initial quarantine examination within 72 hours of **completion** of the 14-day ROM period at the final destination.

(5) If the pet owner requires further transit after the completion of the 14-day ROM period, they must visit the nearest respective VTF to have a health certificate re-examination conducted for their pet(s) to be certified for continued air travels to final destination (e.g. Okinawa, Iwakuni, Sasebo).

3. Animals shipped as unaccompanied air cargo to Japan may be subject to animal quarantine release without additional stipulations, if presented to the VTF by another SOFA member not subject to ROM.

4. Military working animals entering Japan will seek guidance from their Service Component and nearest VTF.

5. The POC for this memorandum is CPT James Gaffney at DSN (315) 225-2143 and james.e.gaffney11.mil@mail.mil or CPT Kimberly Santos at DSN (315) 263-3504 and kimberly.m.santos2.mil@mail.mil.



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