Notice to Assistance Dog Users from Overseas

In Japan, the term “assistance dogs” refers to “guide dogs,” “mobility service dogs,” and “hearing dogs” certified in accordance with the “Act on Assistance Dogs for Persons with Physical Disabilities.” However, this act does not apply to overseas assistance dogs and their users. In order to ensure that foreign assistance dog users have equal rights as Japanese assistance dog users in Japan, registered assistance dog certifying organizations in Japan will issue the following document: “Application for Temporary Certification of foreign Assistance Dog Users.” We ask for your through understanding of the Japanese system, as well as for your cooperation in expediting the process.

Accepted Assistance Dogs in Japan

Guide Dogs

The dog must be trained by a member of the International Guide Dog Federation(IGDF).

Mobility Service Dogs

The dog must be trained by an accredited member of Assistance Dogs International(ADI).

Hearing Dogs

The dog must be trained by an accredited member of Assistance Dogs International(ADI).

- "Mobility service dogs" are defined as dogs that support their users' physical disabilities due to motor impairments.
- Service dogs for mental disorders, autism, emotional disorders, epileptic disorders, PTSD, etc. cannot be accepted as assistance dogs in Japan.
- Privately trained service dogs cannot be accepted as assistance dogs in Japan.

Procedure for the Issuance of a Certificate

1. All dogs – including assistance dogs - entering Japan must meet the import requirements of the Rabies Prevention Law. **YOU MUST PREPARE AT LEAST 7 MONTHS IN ADVANCE FOR A TRIP TO JAPAN WITH YOUR DOG.** Refer to : http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/index.html
2. You must submit an import notification to the Animal Quarantine Service (AQS) in Japan **AT LEAST 40 DAYS BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL**.
3. Fill out the application form with your assistance dog’s training organization, and submit it to a registered Japanese certifying organization (Form 1).
4. If the certifying organization deems your assistance dog legally acceptable as an assistance dog in Japan, a “Temporary Certificate for foreign Assistance Dog Users” will be sent to you from a Japanese training organization before your departure (Form 2).
5. Upon your arrival in Japan, you must proceed to AQS for an import quarantine inspection of your dog. If your dog meets the requirements, the AQS Officer will sign or stamp a seal on your Certificate.

- We are currently calling for a society-wide cooperation in Japan to accept and treat certified overseas assistance dog users and their assistance dogs in the same way as Japanese assistance dog users and their assistance dogs.
- Make sure to show your Certificate to the AQS Officer at the import quarantine inspection .
- **During your stay in Japan, keep place the tag in place (Form 3) on with your assistance dog at all times and be ready to show your certificate (Form 2) as needed.**
- If you forge any related documents, you will face a potential penalty.

PLEASE READ THIS DOCUMENT THOROUGHLY. THANK YOU.

“Assistance Dogs for Persons with Physical Disabilities” Website

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/policy/care-welfare/welfare-disabilities/assistance_dogs/index.html

厚生労働省 Ministry of Health Labour and Welfare

様式１　期間限定証明書申請書
Form 1

Application for Temporary Certificate of Overseas Assistance Dog Users
海外補助犬使用者　期間限定証明書交付申請書

To the Designated Juridical Persons
（指定法人名）　　殿
For my entering Japan with my assistance dog, I apply for the certificate to approve the dog is equivalent to approved Japanese assistance dogs.
日本への渡航にあたり、使用する補助犬が日本の身体障害者補助犬と同等であると認め、期間限定証明書を発行していただくよう、申請します。

○For applicant（申請者作成用）

【About the applicant（申請者について)】

- Name（氏名）
- Address（住所）
- Date of entry（入国予定年月日）
- Port of entry（入国予定港）
- Date of departure（出国予定日）
- Port of departure（出国予定港）
- Schedule in Japan（日本での行程）
- Date of acceptance of import notification by Animal Quarantine Service (AQS) in Japan【動物検疫所による輸入届出受理日】

【About the assistance dog（補助犬について)】

- Type(s) of Assistance Dog (Guide Dog／ Mobility Service Dog／Hearing Dog)（補助犬の種類）
- Name of the dog（名前）
- Dog breed（犬種）
- Microchip number（マイクロチップNo.）

I hereby declare that the statement given above is true and correct.
以上の記載内容は事実と相違ありません。
Signature of the applicant / Date of filling in this form
申請者の署名／申請書作成年月日

Year　Month　Day
年　月　日

○For training organization（訓練事業者作成用）

【About the training（訓練について）】

- The date training started（訓練開始日）
- The date training completed（訓練終了日）
- Contents of training program（訓練内容）
- Contact name、Address、Phone number、E-Mail address)
  （担当者名、住所、電話番号、メールアドレス）

I hereby declare that the statement given above is true and correct.
以上の記載内容は事実と相違ありません。
Name of training organization and representative,
and Signature of the organization / Date of filling in this form
訓練事業者名、代表者の署名／申請書作成年月日

Year　Month　Day
年　月　日

Form2

様式２　海外補助犬使用者　期間限定証明書

海外補助犬使用者　期間限定証明書 Temporary Certificate of Overseas Assistance Dog Users	
盲導犬／介助犬／聴導犬 Guide Dog／ Mobility Service Dog／Hearing Dog 写真（使用者） Photo (User)　　写真（補助犬） Photo (Dog)	
氏名 (Name)	
輸出国 (Country of export)	
入国予定年月日(Date of entry)	
出国予定年月日(Date of departure)	
犬の名前、性別 (Dog name／sex)	
犬種(Dog breed)	
マイクロチップNo. (Microchip No.)	
訓練事業者名及び連絡先 (Name of training organization)	(Name) (Address) (TEL)

検疫実施確認スタンプ等 (Inspected by Animal Quarantine Service (AQS) of Japan)	記入年月日：　　年　　月　　日

証明書を発行した指定法人 (Designated Juridical Persons)	印 (住所) (電話)
証明書の発行年月日 (Date of Certificate)	
空港等での確認の必要性 (The confirmation at the port)	有　・　無 Yes　・　No
空港等での確認の実施年月日 (Date of Confirmation at the port)	

Form3 (Indication)
様式３　表示

海外補助犬使用者　期間限定証明書（表示）

Temporary Certificate of Overseas Assistance Dog Users

○○犬

○○ Dog

使用者氏名(Name)	
犬種(Dog breed)	
輸出国 (Country of export)	
入国／出国予定年月日 (Date of entry and departure)	年　月　日　～　年　月　日
発行した指定法人 (Designated Juridical Persons)	(名称 name) (住所 address) (電話 phone No.)
育成した法人の名称 (Name of training organization)	

（備考）

１　表示は適宜縮小して作成する。

２　「○○犬」は、盲導犬、介助犬、聴導犬から選択する。

３　「○○　Dog」は、Guide Dog、Mobility Service Dog、Hearing Dog から選択する。

The List of the Designated Juridical Persons

Guide Dog	URL	
	English	Japanese
Hokkaido Guide Dogs for the Blind Association	(Japanese Only)	http://www.h-guidedog.org/
East Japan Guide Dog Association	(Japanese Only)	http://www.guide-dog.jp/
JAPAN GUIDE DOG ASSOSIATION	https://www.moudouken.net/en/	https://www.moudouken.net/
The Eye Mate, Inc.	(Japanese Only)	https://www.eyemate.org/
Chubu Guide Dogs for the Blind Association	(Japanese Only)	http://www.chubu-moudouken.jp/
Nippon Lighthouse Guidedog Training Center	(Japanese Only)	http://www.guidedog-lighthouse.jp/
Kansai Guide Dogs for the Blind Association	www.kansai-guidedog.jp/english/index.html	http://www.kansai-guidedog.jp/
HYOGO GUIDE DOGS for the Blind Association	(Japanese Only)	http://www.moudouken.org/
KYUSYU GUIDE DOG ASSOCIATION	(Japanese Only)	https://www.fgda.or.jp/
Guide Dog and Service Dog and Hearing Dog Association of Japan	(Japanese Only)	http://www.hojyoken.or.jp/
Ibaraki Guide Dog Association	(Japanese Only)	https://guidedog.ibaraki.jp/

The List of the Designated Juridical Persons

Mobility Service Dog	URL	
	English	Japanese
foundation for Yokohama Rehabilitation Services	(Japanese Only)	http://www.yokohama-rf.jp/
Social Welfare Corporation Chiba Prefecture Disability Welfare Orga	(Japanese Only)	http://www.chiba-reha.jp/
Social Welfare Corporation Japan Supporting Dog Welfare Association	(Japanese Only)	http://www.kaijoken.or.jp/
Japan Hearing Dogs for Deaf People Social Welfare Corporation	http://www.hearingdog.or.jp/index.php?f=hp&ci=10289&i=10286	http://www.hearingdog.or.jp/
Guide Dog and Service Dog and Hearing Dog Association of Japan	(Japanese Only)	http://www.hojyoken.or.jp/
Social Welfare Corporation Nagoya City Rehabilitation Agency	(Japanese Only)	http://www.nagoya-rehab.or.jp/
Hyogo Social Welfare Corporation	(Japanese Only)	https://www.hwc.or.jp/

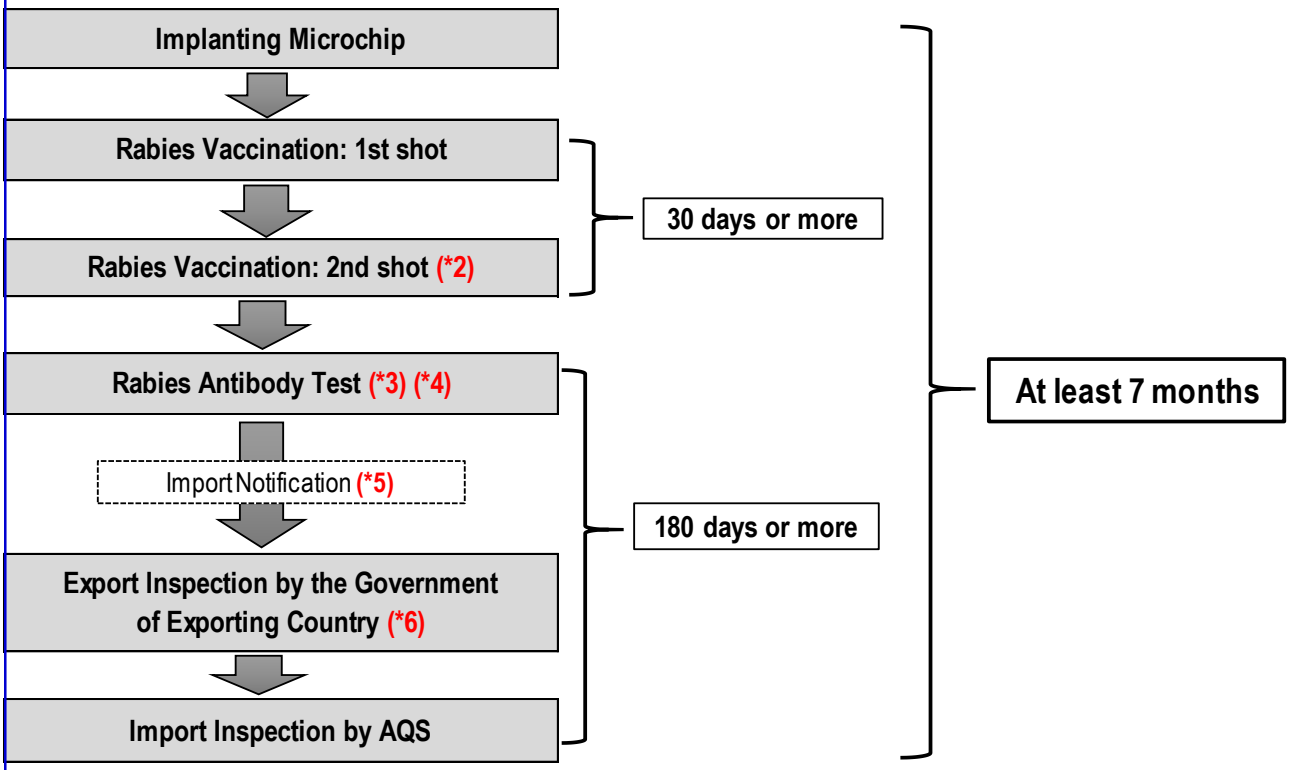
Hearing Dog	URL	
	English	Japanese
foundation for Yokohama Rehabilitation Services	(Japanese Only)	http://www.yokohama-rf.jp/
Social Welfare Corporation Japan Supporting Dog Welfare Association	(Japanese Only)	http://www.kaijoken.or.jp/
Japan Hearing Dogs for Deaf People Social Welfare Corporation	http://www.hearingdog.or.jp/index.php?f=hp&ci=10289&i=10286	http://www.hearingdog.or.jp/
Guide Dog and Service Dog and Hearing Dog Association of Japan	(Japanese Only)	http://www.hojyoken.or.jp/
Social Welfare Corporation Nagoya City Rehabilitation Agency	(Japanese Only)	http://www.nagoya-rehab.or.jp/
Hyogo Social Welfare Corporation	(Japanese Only)	https://www.hwc.or.jp/

Overview of the Import Quarantine Procedures for Dogs Entering Japan

Japan has maintained Rabies Free Status for 60 years since 1958.

- All dogs - including assistance dogs - entering Japan from countries infected with Rabies **(*1)** must meet the following import requirements stipulated by the Rabies Prevention Law.
- It will take at least seven months for your dog to meet all the requirements.
- If your dog does not meet any one of those requirements, it must be kept in custody at a detention facility of Animal Quarantine Service (AQS) for the necessary period up to 180 days under the Rabies Prevention Law.
- Contact the AQS at your scheduled port of entry to get concrete and detailed information as well as instructions from the AQS.

6 Steps Needed to Meet the Import Requirements Under the Rabies Prevention Law



(Remarks)

*1 Countries/regions infected with Rabies are countries/regions **OTHER THAN** Iceland, Australia, Guam, New Zealand, the Fiji Islands, Hawaii and Japan. (As of October 2018)

*2 The 2nd rabies vaccine shall be valid.

*3 The rabies antibody test shall be carried out by a blood testing laboratory designated by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.

*4 The validity of Rabies antibody test is 2 years. A result of 0.5IU/ml or more is required to be valid.

*5 Submission of Import Notification to Animal Quarantine Service (AQS) at least 40 days prior to your arrival.

*6 Without export certificate issued by the government of exporting country, your dog are not allowed to enter Japan.

http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/index.html