

Japan → Malta

Dog Import Checklist & Quick Guide | TailHarbor | Updated April 2026

KEY INFORMATION

STANDARD ROUTE: No titer test required

Preparation Time:	4-8 weeks
Microchip:	ISO 11784/11785 (must be implanted BEFORE rabies vaccination)
Rabies Vaccination:	Required. Minimum 21 days before travel (primary). Keep boosters current.
Titer Test:	Not required (EU-listed/equivalent origin)
Documentation:	Animal Health Certificate (AHC) issued max 10 days before arrival. Single-use.
Tapeworm Treatment:	REQUIRED for Malta. Praziquantel, 1-5 days (24-120h) before arrival, by licensed vet.
Cropping/Docking:	Dogs with cropped ears or docked tails may face import restrictions in Malta
Registration:	Local registration required within 2 weeks of arrival
Entry Points (BIP):	Luqa International Airport only
Import Authority:	Veterinary Regulation Directorate

USEFUL TIPS

- Start the process as early as possible. Delays with lab results or vet appointments can push back your timeline significantly.
- Research airline pet policies early. Some airlines have limited cargo spots, especially in summer. Temperature embargoes apply above 30C / below -5C at any transit airport.
- Start crate training weeks before travel. A calm, crate-confident dog will have a much less stressful journey.
- The tapeworm treatment for Malta must be given by a vet 1-5 days (24-120 hours) before arrival. Schedule this appointment well in advance -- too early or too late means refusal.
- **IMPORTANT:** Malta requires mandatory quarantine for pets. Plan well in advance and budget for quarantine costs.

PRE-TRAVEL CHECKLIST

EARLY PREPARATION

- Confirm your dog's breed is permitted in Malta
- Research airline pet policies and book cargo/cabin spot
- Purchase IATA-approved travel crate (correct size for your dog)
- Begin crate training
- Apply for import permit from Veterinary Regulation Directorate

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Microchip implanted (ISO 11784/11785) -- BEFORE vaccination
- Rabies vaccination administered (min. 21 days before travel)
- Tapeworm treatment (praziquantel) scheduled 1-5 days (24-120h) before arrival in Malta

DOCUMENTATION

- Animal Health Certificate obtained (max 10 days before arrival)
- All vaccination records compiled
- Copies of all documents made (2 sets)
- Airline booking confirmation printed

TRAVEL DAY

- All original documents in carry-on bag
- Crate labeled with your name, phone, destination, and 'Live Animal'
- Water dish filled and attached inside crate
- Arrive at airport early (3+ hours for international with pet)

AFTER ARRIVAL IN MALTA

- Present documents at Travellers' Point of Entry / Border Control
- Register dog with local municipality within 2 weeks
- Register with local veterinarian
- Obtain pet liability insurance (recommended)