

United States: Import/Export of the Bengal cat .

The CITES paperwork required to import or export to the United States at first appears complicated and overwhelming. While import/export does take time it is not impossible. This article will go over the needs of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Management Authority of the CITES permits, and some basics on how to fill out the paperwork. There will be requirements that are separate from the CITES, these vary from country to country and requirements through the United States Department of Agriculture. There is a link to some of the countries and their requirements at www.tibcs.com contact your regional USDA Office to inquire about other requirements.

For an overview of the rules and regulations go to:
www.fws.gov/permits/overview/overview.shtml

Contact the US FWS Management Authority:

- www.fws.gov (permits are on line and can be downloaded and printed, be sure to also get the instruction sheets for filling these out)
- call: 1-800-358-2104 or 703-358-2104
- mail: Division of Management Authority
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4401 N. Fairfax Dr, Room 700
Arlington, VA 22203

You need three basic forms: *

1. Export of Live Captive-Born Animals form 3-200-24 (\$100 fee)
 - www.fws.gov/permits/applicationforms/ApplicationC.shtml#CITES
 - www.fws.gov/forms/display.cfm?number1=200
2. Declaration for Importation or Exportation of Fish or Wildlife, form 3-177 (no fee)
 - www.fws.gov/le/ImpExp/Info_Importers_Exporters.htm
 - www.fws.gov/le/ImpExp/faqs.htm
3. Import/Export License, form 3-200-3
 - www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-3.pdf (\$100 for first year, \$50 after)

Designated Ports:

*no form required IF the port is a designated port, only a phone call, at least three days ahead of shipping. (the more time the better)

<http://www.fws.gov/le/ImpExp/inspectors.htm>

(There is an inspection fee, varies by time and distance. Average is \$45/hour)

4. IF the port is not listed, form for License/Permit Application Form: Designated Port Exception Permit, form 3-200-2 (fee: \$100)

general www.fws.gov/le/ImpExp/CommWildlifeImportExport.htm

Carefully read the instructions and fill out the papers.

Captive bred, Form 3-200-24

- Section A. self explanatory
- Section B. NA
- Section C.
 - C-1 will vary.
 - C-2 will vary
 - C-3 Check of \$100
 - C-4 read
 - C-5 Sign in BLUE ink
- Section D
 - D-1
 - Scientific name $Prionailurus\ bengalensis\ x\ Felis\ catus$
(generation)
 - Common name. domestic Bengal cat if fifth generation and beyond.
 - The rest is self explanatory
 - D-2 location
 - D-3 purpose of transport (pet, breeding, etc)
 - D-4 self explanatory
 - D-5 self explanatory
 - D-6 Be sure to provide name and address of recipient
 - D-7 self explanatory
 - D-8 for most, not necessary
 - D-9 most of us do not have State permits or licences
 - D-10. D-11 N/A
 - D-12 Designated port, see above. Check with airlines to see availability of flights and ports, if you are not close to a port you will need to fill out the Designated Port Exception Permit, form 3-200-2 (fee: \$100)
 - D-13-15 self explanatory

Put on outside of envelope: BENGAL CAT: EXPEDITE mail to the US FWS address above with the \$100 fee. Copy all papers for your records noting dates.

Declaration for Importation or Exportation of Fish or Wildlife, form 3-177 (no fee)

To be filled out and sent with the cat.

Import/Export License, form 3-200-3

Self explanatory and directions included. Send to the Regional Office listed with fee. Fill out and send in fee. Takes about six –nine weeks.

Designated Ports:

<http://www.fws.gov/le/ImpExp/inspectors.htm>

You will find a list of designated ports. You will have to contact the port and speak to one of the agents, fax the paperwork at least three days ahead of shipment, but contact them early on so you can make sure you are following their requirements. They may have additional requirements.

If the port you want to use is not listed as a designated port, you can drive, arrange for a flight that will stop at that city, or fill out the paperwork for a Port Exception. Again, do this early on.

If you are wanting to show your own cat or cross international lines with the cat, you can fill out the form C3-200-64 and cross international lines with your cat(s) The fee for this is \$75

The International Bengal cat Society is actively working to change the need for CITES papers on fifth generation and beyond, but until this is done, ALL BENGAL CATS need CITES papers to enter or leave the United States. To ignore this rule is to risk confiscation and/or fines.