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Pet travel from the United States to Costa Rica

Last Modified:

Welcome! This page will guide you through the rules and requirements for traveling internationally with your pet.

Before You Start the Process

Find a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian

With help from a [USDA-accredited veterinarian](#), you can learn more about your destination country's entry requirements for pets, including any needed vaccinations, tests, or treatments. We recommend creating a schedule to make sure you meet all requirements within the specified timeframe.

Gather This Information for Your USDA-Accredited Veterinarian

- The type of pet traveling
- The destination country
- If applicable, countries where your pet will stop (for customs clearance or upon leaving the airport or seaport) on the way to the destination country
- The date of departure from the United States

- Whether the pet will be traveling alone, as cargo, or with a person in the cabin of the plane
- *Note: If you're traveling with a pet bird or exotic animal, you may need to work with additional agencies, such as the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) (1.41 MB) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).*

Read These Resources

- [Pet Travel Guidance for Pets Traveling to Another Country From the United States](#)
 - In Spanish (En Español): [Guía de viaje para mascotas que viajan a otro país desde Estados Unidos](#)
 - In Chinese (繁體中文): [\[Link\]](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions About Traveling With Your Pet](#)

Travel Requirements Based on Pet Type

Dogs and Cats

An import permit issued by [Costa Rica](#) is required for unaccompanied pets.

Requirements for traveling with your pet are described in the health certificate. APHIS endorsement of the health certificate is required after it has been issued by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian.

Note: If you prefer not to use the health certificate model provided here, APHIS has confirmed Costa Rica will accept an APHIS 7001 form which meets the same requirements as the posted model certificate.

[International Health Certificate](#) (293.62 KB)

Rabbits

[International Health Certificate](#) (204 KB)

Birds

Costa Rica does not allow for the importation of pet birds.

Other Pets

For pet travel requirements not listed, APHIS has not been officially informed by the foreign country about the requirements for your pet's travel. We recommend that you contact a government official of the country you are traveling to for more information.

Country of Destination Contact Information

[World Organisation for Animal Health: Members](#)

[U.S. Department of State: Foreign Embassies and Consulates](#)

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Countries Participating in the European Union

Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia

Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Republic of Ireland
Italy
Latvia

Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta

Netherlands
Northern Ireland^{*}
Norway^{**}
Poland
Portugal

Romania
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland^{**}

* Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom (UK), but will continue to follow European Union (EU) requirements even though the UK is no longer part of the EU.

** Norway and Switzerland are **not** part of the EU but have adopted EU legislation for import of most species of live animals.

Important Travel Considerations

If you are transiting (passing through) the European Union:



If your pet is traveling through (transiting) a country in the European Union (EU) on the way to a third, non-EU country, you will also need a transit health certificate for your pet for the EU. The transit health certificate will be the same as if your pet's final destination was the EU country. Use the information and steps above under "Travel Requirements Based on Pet Type" to determine which health certificate should be used. [View a list of EU countries.](#)

Considerations for airline travel:



Airlines and shipping lines have their own policies and requirements for transporting pets. Check with your airline or shipping representative to determine what requirements they may have.

[View additional information for pet owners, airlines, and others about APHIS endorsement of international health certificates.](#)

Will you be returning to the United States with your pet?



[View the Requirements](#)

ALERT: Read the [CDC Notice of Temporary Suspension of Dogs Entering the United States From Countries Classified as High Risk for Dog Rabies.](#)

Information for Accredited Veterinarians

[Print](#)