



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

Veterinary Services

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Dear Owner or Accredited Veterinarian,

The European Union (EU) changed its requirements for the import of dogs, cats, and ferrets on January 1, 2012. They developed new forms ("Annex I" and "Annex II") to replace the old "EU 998". USDA's National Center for Import and Export (NCIE) has posted updated versions of these new forms to their website. Use of these new forms is **mandatory** at this point in time. Even though some country websites may show the "old" EU 998 forms, these are **not valid**. Annotated versions of these new forms are available on the IREGs under the link for European Union. Guidance documents and answers to some common questions may be found on our Texas Export Website. Please check these websites frequently to look for additional updates.

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/>

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/area\\_offices/states/txie\\_info.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices/states/txie_info.html)

**PLEASE NOTE:** The new certificate requires an attestation by an accredited veterinarian that it has been 21 days since the primary rabies vaccine. A primary rabies vaccine is considered to be **any** of the following: the pet's first rabies, **the pet's first rabies after microchipping (regardless of current vaccine status)**, and/or the pet's first rabies after a lapse. We have received guidance from NCIE stating that you may issue the certificate **PRIOR TO** the 21 days, as long as the owner signs a declaration indicating that the pet **WILL NOT TRAVEL** until after the 21 days. That declaration must be submitted to our office with the certificate.

We have also received some additional information regarding the use of the commercial form versus the non-commercial form. If traveling with your pet/s (5 or fewer), use the non-commercial certificate. If your pet is traveling alone, you **may** use the non-commercial form if your pet is moved under the supervision of an animal transport company, or if you can provide documentation showing that the shipment is non-commercial. Whoever takes the pet to the veterinarian for the health certificate exam must sign the attestation on the HC that the movement is non-commercial. If traveling with more than 5 pets, or if shipping a pet that is being sold, the commercial certificate *is* required. The new commercial certificate requires that the pet be examined within 24 hours of export. We have received notification that this commercial certificate **may** be endorsed within 10 days prior to travel, as long as the pet undergoes a subsequent exam within the required time frame. We do not know if all EU countries will recognize a commercial certificate issued more than 24 hours prior to export – feel free to contact our office for more information on commercial certificates, or for any other questions regarding shipping pets to the EU.

Sincerely,

USDA Export

*Safeguarding American Agriculture*

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