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Bring a Pet Reptile into the United States

Last Modified:



This page will guide you through the requirements for bringing a pet reptile into the United States from another country.

Carefully read ALL requirements on this page.

- Failure to meet these import requirements will result in problems upon arrival in the United States, and the pet may be refused entry.
- Multiple U.S. agencies regulate pets imported into the United States. It is important that you notify and coordinate with all responsible Government agencies.

APHIS Veterinary Services Requirements

There are a few tortoises that APHIS Veterinary Services prohibits from being imported.

The following tortoise species are prohibited from entering the United States:

- Leopard tortoise (*Geochelone pardalis*)
- African spurred tortoise (*Geochelone sulcata*)
- Bell's hingeback tortoise (*Kinixys belliana*)

Otherwise, APHIS Veterinary Services doesn't have any animal health requirements for bringing pet reptiles into the United States from a foreign country.

Other Federal Agency Requirements

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) doesn't regulate the import of reptiles **except** turtles, tortoises, and terrapins. Visit the [CDC's website](#) to view import requirements related to these animals.

Also, check the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), as it may have regulations related to importing a reptile into the United States.

U.S. State and Territory Requirements

Domestic movement requirements are set by the receiving State or Territory.

Visit the [National Association of State Departments of Agriculture](#) to find your destination's agriculture department and check its website for requirements.

For questions or clarification on any of the requirements, contact the [State or Territorial veterinarian's office](#).

Airline Requirements

Check with your airline to determine whether they have any additional requirements.

Need Help?

For general questions related to the import of a live animal:

Live Animal Import and Export

Email: laie@usda.gov

Phone: [301-851-3300](tel:301-851-3300)

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