Take a Pet From the United States to Another Country (Export)

Last Modified:

Traveling with your dog and planning to return to the United States? Check both APHIS and CDC requirements!

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the primary Government authority for all dogs imported into the United States, including returning U.S.-origin dogs. The following requirements related to rabies are established by CDC, **not** APHIS.

- **Certification Required**
  - Dogs traveling to or returning from a high-risk country for dog rabies must have the "Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination" form completed by a USDA-accredited veterinarian and submitted ***before*** **departing the United States.**
  - This form **cannot be issued retroactively** after your dog leaves the United States.
  - Veterinarians: Instructions for completing the form
- **Additional CDC Requirements**

- Entry Requirements for U.S.-Vaccinated Dogs From High-Risk Countries | CDC
- For more information, visit the CDC website.

Related Information

- APHIS may have separate requirements for dogs entering the United States. These differ from the CDC import requirements.
- Learn More: Bringing a Pet Dog into the United States | APHIS
- VEHCS Access and Help (for veterinarians): Using the Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS)



If you are planning to take your pet from the United States to another country, contact a USDA-accredited veterinarian as soon as you decide to travel. They will help you determine your destination country's pet entry requirements, including any needed vaccinations, tests, or treatments, and assist you through the process of obtaining a USDA-endorsed pet health certificate or other needed paperwork.

Not all animals qualify for pet travel.

What is considered a pet? A pet is a privately owned companion animal not intended for research or resale and includes only certain animal groups.

Expand To See More

Find out if your pet qualifies to travel

Your animal doesn't qualify for pet travel and is subject to different import regulations and export regulations if you:

- Don't see your pet listed below.
- Are exporting semen or embryos from any animal.
- Have a pet that's considered livestock or poultry, like pigs or chickens.

The following animals qualify as pets, meaning they're subject to pet travel requirements:

Dogs



Cats



Ferrets



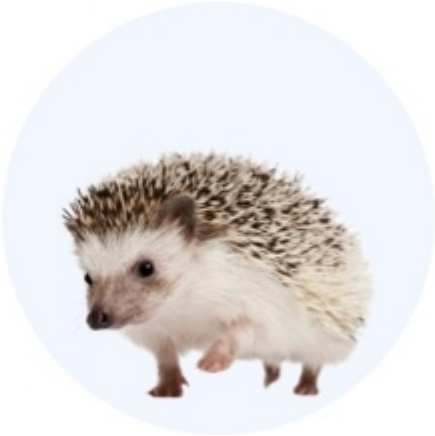
Rabbits



Rodents



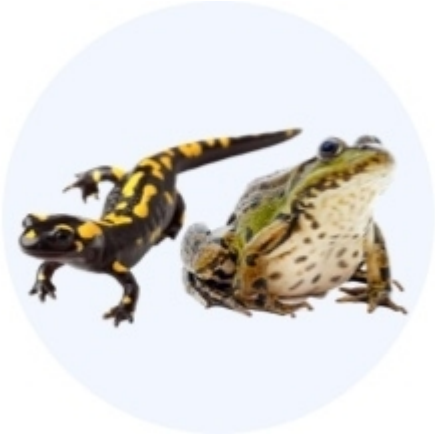
Hedgehogs/Tenrecs



Reptiles



Amphibians



Birds (not all types—see below)



The following birds DON'T qualify as pets, meaning they're subject to different regulations:

Because they may carry and transmit certain diseases to the U.S. poultry industry, these birds are regulated as poultry.

- Chickens
- Doves
- Ducks
- Geese
- Grouse
- Guinea fowl
- Partridges
- Pea fowl
- Pheasants
- Pigeons
- Quail
- Swans
- Turkeys

View import regulations and export regulations if the type of animal you have does not qualify as a pet.

Step 1: Connect With a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian

As soon as you decide to travel outside the United States with your pet, contact a USDA-accredited veterinarian. They will help you determine your destination country's pet entry requirements and assist you through the process of obtaining a USDA-endorsed health certificate and any other needed paperwork.

Expand All

What To Expect From a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian

Your accredited veterinarian will:

- Walk you through the pet travel process.
- Ensure your pet meets the destination country's entry requirements.
- Submit health certificates for APHIS endorsement on your behalf.
- Keep you updated on the status of your health certificate.

Information Your Veterinarian Will Need

- 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

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). Check the requirements for your destination country at the bottom of this page.

Read These Resources

Pet Travel Process Overview

This quick guide explains the pet travel process from beginning to end.

Frequently Asked Questions

Get answers to some of the most often asked questions about the pet travel process.

Accredited Veterinarians

Are you looking to learn about certifying animals for international travel (export), completing and submitting health certificates for USDA endorsement, and using the Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS)?

View Accredited Veterinarians: Certifying Animals for International Travel (Export)

Step 2: Look Up the Destination Country's Requirements

Your destination country sets the entry requirements for pets, which can change at any time. **You must verify the country requirements every time you plan to travel with your pet.**

Find Your Destination Country Requirements

If your country is not listed in the menu, visit Pet Travel: Unknown Requirements.

Select Destination Country Select Destination Cour ▼ Go

Need Help?

USDA-Accredited Veterinarians

Contact a USDA-accredited veterinarian for questions about your destination country's entry requirements for pets (including any needed vaccinations, tests, or treatments); issuance of health certificates; and status updates on certificate endorsement.

Find a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian

APHIS Endorsement Offices

Contact APHIS Veterinary Export Trade Services if you have questions about endorsing an international pet health certificate. For quickest help, see **tips for pet owners and accredited veterinarians.**

Generalist Team

Veterinary Export Trade Services

Email: askvets@usda.gov

Helpful Links:

- Frequently Asked Questions About Pet Travel for Accredited Veterinarians

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All Contacts
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