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Pet Travel From the United States to New Zealand

Last Modified:

Electronic Signature **ACCEPTED**; Original Ink Endorsement **REQUIRED**

For Accredited Veterinarians: Electronic signature **ACCEPTED**

For APHIS VMO: Original ink endorsement **REQUIRED**

USDA-accredited veterinarians can electronically issue health certificates and use VEHCS (Veterinary Export Health Certification System) to submit them to USDA for endorsement.

USDA must ink-sign and emboss the health certificate.

What This Means for You

Accredited Veterinarians: Use the links below to access or get help with VEHCS. Learn more about [how to issue export health certificates](#).

Animal Owners/Shippers: You can arrange to have your health certificate returned by mail (a prepaid, preaddressed return label must be provided during

certificate submission). The endorsed health certificate—ink-signed and embossed—must accompany the animal(s) during shipment or travel.

[VEHCS Help](#) | [VEHCS Guide](#) (7.58 MB) | [VEHCS Login](#)

Electronic Signature and Digital Endorsement ACCEPTED

For Accredited Veterinarians: Electronic signature ACCEPTED

For APHIS VMO: Digital endorsement ACCEPTED

USDA-accredited veterinarians can electronically issue health certificates and use VEHCS (Veterinary Export Health Certification System) to submit them to USDA for digital endorsement.

USDA can digitally endorse the health certificate and return it electronically.

What This Means for You

Accredited Veterinarians: Use the links below to access or get help with VEHCS. Learn more about [how to issue export health certificates](#).

Animal Owners/Shippers: The endorsed health certificate can be printed out directly from VEHCS and does **not** have to be mailed back to you. The printed, endorsed health certificate must accompany the animal(s) during shipment or travel.

[VEHCS Help](#) | [VEHCS Guide](#) (7.58 MB) | [VEHCS Login](#)

Electronic Signature ACCEPTED; Digital Endorsement for SOME COMMODITIES ONLY

For Accredited Veterinarians: Electronic signature ACCEPTED

For APHIS VMO: Digital endorsement for SOME COMMODITIES ONLY

USDA-accredited veterinarians can electronically issue health certificates and use VEHCS (Veterinary Export Health Certification System) to submit them to USDA for endorsement.

Digital endorsement varies by species—see requirements on this page for details. The health certificate either bears the original ink signature and embossed seal **or** digital signature/seal.

What This Means for You

Accredited Veterinarians: Use the links below to access or get help with VEHCS. Learn more about [how to issue export health certificates](#).

Animal Owners/Shippers: Digitally endorsed health certificates can be printed out directly from VEHCS. For non-digitally endorsed health certificates, you can arrange to have your health certificate returned by mail (a prepaid, preaddressed return label must be provided during certificate submission). A paper version of the endorsed health certificate must accompany the animal(s) during shipment or travel.

[VEHCS Help](#) | [VEHCS Guide](#) (7.58 MB) | [VEHCS Login](#)

Travel Requirements Based on Pet Type

Carefully read ALL of the requirements related to your pet on this page.

- This page provides the most recent entry requirements and can change without notice.
- It is the responsibility of the veterinarian to make sure the pet has met all health requirements of the destination country before issuing a health certificate.
- Failure to meet the requirements may result in problems gaining certificate endorsement or difficulties upon arrival in the destination country.
- Health certificates must be legible, accurate, and complete.

On April 22, 2026, the new EU legislation EU2026/131 came into effect for the export of non-commercial dog, cats, ferrets, and birds and EU 2026/848 for the commercial dogs, cats, and ferrets. There is a transition period for implementation of the new certificates. APHIS is working on the formatting of these certificates to make them publicly available, as soon as possible.

The new non-commercial health certificates will go into effect on October 1, 2026. The current certificates can be endorsed on or before September 30, 2026.

The commercial dogs, cats, and ferrets certificate will go into effect on October 17, 2026. The current certificate can be endorsed on or before October 16, 2026.

Transiting the European Union (EU)

According to EU 2026/131 Article 5, non-commercial dogs, cats, ferrets or birds transiting the EU to another country, do not need an EU health certificate.

- Only pets that qualify as non-commercial are not required to have a health certificate. If the dog is traveling unaccompanied, they need to use a commercial certificate and are not eligible for the transit exemption.
- If the pet is waiting in a pet hotel at the airport for the next flight, the pet hotel may not be considered part of the international transit zone. Each port may define the international zone differently. Please confirm with the port officials ahead of time and plan accordingly.

[Expand All](#)

Dogs and Cats

- Visit [New Zealand's website](#) for complete and up-to-date information, as well as a printable checklist (see "[Resources](#)") for traveling with your pet to New Zealand.
- **The following animal breeds are prohibited:**
 - **Dogs:** Brazilian Fila, Dog Argentino, Japanese Tosa, Perro de Presa Canario, American Pit Bull Terrier (any type), hybrid species (any type)

- **Cats:** Hybrid species, except for Bengal cats with documentation showing five generations of domestic ancestry
- **Requirements:**
 - [Download the guidance document for cats and dogs](#)
 - [View the step-by-step guide to bringing cats and dogs to New Zealand](#)
 - **Note:** New Zealand confirmed they will accept the official seals being placed on the crates by a USDA-accredited veterinarian.
 - The mainland United States, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Northern Mariana Islands are considered a Category 3 country (rabies absent or well-controlled).
 - Hawaii, Guam, and American Samoa are considered a Category 2 country (rabies-free).

Upon Arrival in New Zealand

The following documents must be presented:

1. An import permit issued by the MPI (copy acceptable)
 - Permit to import applications can be found on the [MPI website](#).
 - Completed applications should be submitted to Animal Imports (animalimports@mpi.govt.nz) at least 20 business days in advance of the date you need the permit.
2. Health Certificate A issued by a USDA-accredited veterinarian and endorsed by APHIS, and Health Certificate B issued and endorsed by APHIS
3. Original laboratory reports **or** copies of laboratory reports endorsed by APHIS
 - Effective immediately, New Zealand will no longer accept the 2ME-RSAT test as the stand-alone test for *Brucella canis* testing for dogs. The approved tests for *Brucella canis* are: RSAT (not the 2ME-RSAT), TAT, CPAg-AGID, and IFAT.
 - The laboratory reports must include:
 - Unique microchip identification for each animal, consistent with the health certificate
 - Dates of sample collection
 - Test type
 - Test result

4. Original vaccination records (not required for cats from Category 2 States or Territories)
5. If the pet is on any medication, a copy of the veterinarian's prescription and a Declaration of Medicines. The pet's microchip must be on all documentation.
6. Importer dog breed declaration (to be provided upon arrival in New Zealand).

Your pet will be inspected by New Zealand officials. You will need to contact MPI at least 72 hours before travel to arrange for this veterinary inspection.

Your pet will be quarantined upon arrival in New Zealand for at least 10 days.

Health Certificates

- [View the latest version \(June 2025\) of acceptable external and internal parasite treatments for cats and dogs to New Zealand](#) (94.02 KB)
 - **Note:** This list is not exhaustive and combinations of products can be used. This list is also subject to change without notice.

Mainland United States, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Northern Mariana Islands:

- **Note:** Cats and dogs from Mainland United States, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Northern Mariana Islands arriving in New Zealand **from 1 March 2026** are not required to have seals on crates.
- [Category 3: Veterinary Certificate A and Veterinary Certificate B](#) (1.51 MB)
 - **Note:** Certificate A must be filled out by a USDA-accredited veterinarian. Certificate B must be left blank for APHIS to fill out.

Hawaii, Guam, and American Samoa:

- **Note:** New Zealand confirmed they will accept the official seals being placed on the crates by a USDA-accredited veterinarian.
- [Category 2: Veterinary Certificate A and Veterinary Certificate B](#) (1.43 MB)
 - **Note:** Certificate A must be filled out by a USDA-accredited veterinarian. Certificate B must be left blank for APHIS to fill out.
 - On the day of departure, the accredited veterinarian must scan the pet's microchip, apply the seals to the crate, and add the following to the bottom of the page of Certificate B: "Upon sealing of container" along with the name of the accredited veterinarian, their signature, and date.

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](#)

■

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

Considerations for airline travel and cruises:



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.

[Learn how you can improve the safety of dogs and cats during air travel.](#)

[View additional information for pet owners, airlines, and others about APHIS endorsement of international health certificates \(239.52 KB\).](#)

If pets or support animals accompany you on a cruise, you must comply with entry rules for **every** country or port where your pet or support animal exits the ship.

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



[View APHIS Requirements](#)

ALERT: CDC is the primary authority for dog imports. For requirements or questions about dogs entering or returning to the United States, visit the [CDC website](#).

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](#).

See More See Less

Need Help?

[Guidance for Pet Owners](#)

[Read an overview of the process for taking your pet to another country and related resources.](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[View frequently asked questions about traveling with your pet.](#)

Still Have Questions?

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](#)

Helpful Links:

- [Frequently Asked Questions About Pet Travel for Accredited Veterinarians](#)

[All Contacts](#)

Looking for Another Country?

Find your destination country requirements by using the dropdown menu below. If your country is not listed in the menu, visit [Pet Travel: Unknown Requirements](#).

Select Destination Country [Go](#)

[Print](#)