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Bring a Pet From Another Country into the United States (Import)

Last Modified:

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated rabies vaccination requirements for all dogs entering or returning to the United States. Certain requirements must be met **before departing the United States**. [Learn More](#)

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Rabies Alert

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**

- Learn More: [Entry Requirements for U.S.-Vaccinated Dogs From High-Risk Countries | CDC](#)
- Questions? Contact **CDC** at **800-232-4636** or visit [CDC-INFO](#).

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 \(VEHCS\)](#)



Animals entering the United States may be subject to regulation by APHIS and other Federal agencies. Depending on your destination State, your pet may need to meet State entry requirements in addition to Federal entry requirements. Pet owners are responsible for meeting **all** Federal and State requirements.

Requirements

Before you travel, make sure you carefully read and understand all import requirements for your animal. Failure to meet these requirements will result in problems upon arrival to the United States, and your pet may be refused entry.

If your animal isn't listed below, it may not qualify as a pet and, therefore, may be subject to [different import requirements](#) by APHIS.

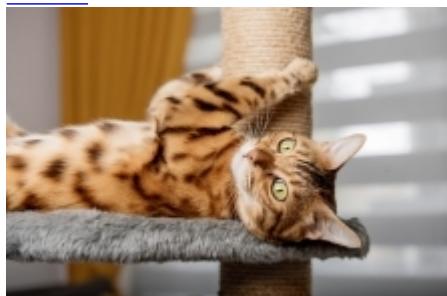
If you're traveling with a pet bird or exotic animal, you may need to work with additional agencies, such as the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

Select an animal to view the entry requirements:

[Dogs](#)



[Cats](#)



[Ferrets](#)



[Amphibians](#)



[Hedgehogs/Tenrecs](#)



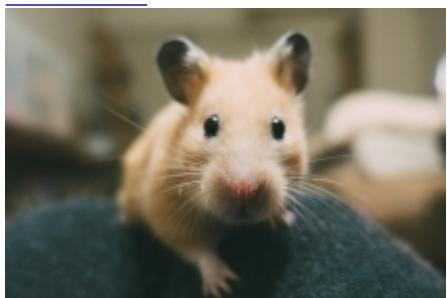
[Rabbits](#)



[Reptiles](#)



[Rodents](#)



[Birds*](#)



*Not all birds qualify for pet travel.

If you're [bringing in six or more pet birds](#) or any number of birds classified as [poultry](#), they do not qualify for pet travel. This means they are subject to different regulations.

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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 the import regulations if your bird does not qualify as a pet](#)

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