Pet Travel From the United States to Australia

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 (7.6 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 (7.6 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 (7.6 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.

Expand All

Dogs and Cats From Other Countries Traveling to the United States and Then to Australia

For dogs and cats traveling from other countries to the United States and then to Australia, read this guidance (108.46 KB) first.

Dogs and Cats From U.S. States (Except Hawaii and Guam)

Read and follow Australia's step-by-step guides for dogs and cats:

Step-by-Step Guide for Dogs
Step-by-Step Guide for Cats

More Guidance

The following information clarifies certain requirements outlined in Australia's step-by-step guides. Please read it carefully.

Expand All

Using a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian

The veterinarian(s) who prepares the pet for export to Australia (includes scanning the microchip, drawing blood, completing the laboratory submission forms, etc.) **must** be a **USDA-accredited veterinarian** in the State where they perform work.

Pet Owners—Find an Accredited Veterinarian

Check Accreditation Status (Veterinarians Only)

Completing the Identity Declaration

This section is for **optional step 3.2, "Confirm your dog's [or cat's] identity,"** in Australia's step-by-step guide for dogs or cats.

Pets that complete this identity check will be eligible for **10 days** in post-entry quarantine upon arrival into Australia. If you cannot fully meet this identity check process as outlined, the pet will need to spend **30 days** in post-entry quarantine upon arrival in Australia.

Follow the instructions below (steps 1–12) to have your pet's identity verified.

There are multiple fees for this service, as noted below.

Identity declarations are valid for as long as the animal:

- can be identified by the verified microchip on the declaration, **and**
- resides in an approved country.

Part 1

1. Take your pet to a USDA-accredited veterinarian and have them complete the identity declaration (324.71 KB).
    - The veterinarian may complete the declaration directly within VEHCS. They do not need to fill out the PDF version.
2. The accredited veterinarian **must** take a color photo(s) of the pet and the microchip scanner with the microchip number visible.
    - At least one photo should have both the scanner, with the microchip number visible, and at least a significant portion of the pet together in the same photo.
3. The accredited veterinarian **must** use VEHCS to submit the identity declaration and photo(s) to USDA for endorsement.
    - A user fee to USDA is required for the endorsement of the declaration.
    - In VEHCS, click "New Certificate."
        - For "Destination Country," select “Australia.”

        - For "Commodity Type," select “Dogs & cats - ID declaration part 1 or 2.”
        - VEHCS will generate the certificate. The veterinarian does not need to fill out the PDF form before going to VEHCS.
        - On the "Attachments" screen, upload the photo(s).
4. After the accredited veterinarian submits the identity declaration and photo(s) in VEHCS, USDA will review and endorse. The accredited veterinarian **must** provide the endorsed certificate number to you (the pet owner/exporter).

Part 2

5. After completing steps 1–4 in Part 1, you must take your pet to a **different** USDA-accredited veterinarian at a **different** veterinary clinic and have them complete a new identity declaration (324.71 KB).
    - The veterinarian may complete the declaration directly within VEHCS. They do not need to fill out the PDF version.
    - The two accredited veterinarians should work at different clinics.
6. The second accredited veterinarian **must** take a color photo(s) of the pet and the microchip scanner with the microchip number visible.
    - At least one photo should have both the scanner, with the microchip number visible, and at least a significant portion of the pet together in the same photo.
7. The second accredited veterinarian **must** use VEHCS to submit the identity declaration and photo(s) to USDA for endorsement.
    - A user fee to USDA is required for the endorsement of the declaration.
    - In VEHCS, click "New Certificate."
        - For "Destination Country," select “Australia.”
        - For "Commodity Type," select “Dogs & cats - ID declaration part 1 or 2.”
        - VEHCS will generate the certificate. The veterinarian does not need to fill out the PDF form before going to VEHCS.
        - On the "Attachments" screen, upload the photo(s).
8. After the accredited veterinarian submits the identity declaration and photo(s) in VEHCS, USDA will review and endorse. The accredited veterinarian **must** provide the endorsed certificate number to you (the pet owner/exporter).

Blood cannot be drawn for the rabies neutralizing antibody titer test (RNATT) until after the date of the second microchip scanning (can be done on same day). Part 3 below MUST still be completed by the accredited veterinarian.

Part 3

Part 3 **must** be endorsed within **3 months** of the date of the first microchip scanning. Please submit requests in a timely manner.

9. One of the accredited veterinarians **must** then logon to VEHCS and submit a request for completion of the USDA identity declaration (required by Australia). The exporter will need to have both accredited veterinarian declarations that were previously completed.

- A user fee to USDA is required for the endorsement of the declaration.
- In VEHCS, click "New Certificate."
    - For “Destination Country,” select “Australia.”
    - For “Commodity Type,” select “Dogs & cats – final ID declaration part 3.”
    - VEHCS will generate the certificate. The veterinarian does not need to fill out a PDF form before going to VEHCS.
    - No attachments are required, but it is preferred that you use the ‘related certificate’ feature in VEHCS to link the ID declaration part 1 and 2 to this submission.

10. After the request is submitted, USDA will complete a separate identity declaration, based on the information provided by the two accredited veterinarians in the first and second accredited veterinarian identity declarations. USDA will upload the endorsed USDA identity declaration in VEHCS and email it directly to Australia.
11. Once the USDA identity declaration certificate is marked "Completed" in VEHCS , you/the exporter may then proceed to the next step in Australia’s step-by-step guide for dogs or cats.
12. You **must** retain a copy of the endorsed USDA identity declaration to attach to the export health certificate that must accompany the pet during travel to Australia.

Rabies Neutralizing Antibody Titer Test Declaration

Follow step 4 in Australia's step-by-step guide for dogs or cats to complete the rabies neutralizing antibody titer test (RNATT) and RNATT Declaration (270.64 KB).

A **USDA-accredited veterinarian** must scan the pet's microchip (dogs and cats) and collect the blood sample for the RNATT. The USDA-accredited veterinarian that drew the blood must complete the laboratory submission form, including the animal's microchip number and the blood sampling date.

Once you receive the RNATT laboratory report, you need to obtain an endorsed RNATT Declaration (270.64 KB) from USDA. We strongly recommend that the pet's USDA-accredited veterinarian use VEHCS to request the RNATT Declaration. You **must** retain a copy of the endorsed RNATT Declaration to attach to the export health certificate that must accompany the pet during travel to Australia.

- In VEHCS, click "New Certificate."
  - For "Destination Country," select "Australia."
  - For "Commodity Type," select "Dogs and cats – RNATT Declaration for Australia"
  - VEHCS will generate the certificate. The veterinarian does not need to fill out a PDF form before going to VEHCS.
  - On the "Attachments" screen, upload the RNATT laboratory report and rabies vaccination certificate.

If the blood sample was collected outside of the United States, please email askvets@usda.gov for additional direction on how to input this into VEHCS.

6-Month Waiting Period

The dog or cat is only eligible for export to Australia at least **180 days after** the blood sample arrives at the laboratory for the RNATT. You can find more information about the waiting period on your import permit issued by Australia.

Testing for Leishmania, Leptospira, and Brucella

Australia requires dogs to be tested for:

- *Leishmania infantum*
- *Leptospira interrogans* serovar Canicola (not required if fully vaccinated according to manufacturer's recommendations)
- *Brucella canis* (not required if spayed/neutered)

All laboratory submission forms (the form that accompanies the blood sample to the laboratory) must:

- Include the dog's microchip number correctly recorded.
- Indicate the testing is for export. An approved laboratory must conduct the testing.

All laboratory reports must include:

- The dog's microchip number correctly recorded.
- Blood sampling date
- Test type
- Test result

For *Brucella canis*, one of the following test types must be used (listed on the export health certificate):

- RSAT
- TAT
- IFAT

Only the standard versions of the tests listed above will be accepted.

The following tests are **not** approved:

- 2ME-RSAT
- 2ME-TAT
- AGID/AGID II
- Canine Brucella Multiplex Assay

- Brucella Slide Agglutination/AGID II combination test

Health Certificate Information

We strongly recommend that USDA-accredited veterinarians use VEHCS to complete the export health certificate for submission to USDA. USDA **must** endorse the export health certificate. Find a USDA endorsement office.

- When creating the certificate in VEHCS:
  - For "Destination Country," select “Australia.”
  - For "Commodity Type," select either “Dog from U.S. States (except Hawaii and Guam)” or “Cat from U.S. States (except Hawaii and Guam).”
- The USDA-accredited veterinarian must use the health certificate available in VEHCS or the applicable health certificate listed below (the veterinarian may navigate directly to VEHCS without downloading this PDF). The health certificate provided in the Australian-issued import permit is not specific for pets from the United States.
  - Dog from U.S. States (except Hawaii and Guam) (306.68 KB)
  - Cat from U.S. States (except Hawaii and Guam) (229.82 KB)
- Leptospirosis vaccination section on new model health certificate:
  - If the pet received a primary course (two vaccinations) before export, the accredited veterinarian must record the details of **both** vaccinations on the health certificate.
  - If the pet received an annual booster before export, the accredited veterinarian must record the details of that vaccination **and** the details of the last vaccination given before the booster.

Documents for Travel

The following completed and **USDA-endorsed** documents must accompany your pet for travel to Australia:

- Part 3 USDA Identity Declaration (if this option was chosen)
- RNATT Declaration

- Laboratory Reports
- Export Health Certificate

Dogs and Cats From Hawaii or Guam

Read and follow Australia's step-by-step guides for dogs and cats:

Step-by-Step Guide for Dogs
Step-by-Step Guide for Cats

More Guidance

The following information clarifies certain requirements outlined in Australia's step-by-step guides. Please read it carefully.

Expand All

Using a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian

The veterinarian(s) who prepares the pet for export to Australia (includes scanning the microchip, drawing blood, completing the laboratory submission forms, etc.) **must** be a **USDA-accredited veterinarian** in the State where they perform work.

Pet Owners—Find an Accredited Veterinarian

Check Accreditation Status (Veterinarians Only)

Completing the Identity Declaration

This section is for **required step 4, "Confirm your dog's [or cat's] identity,"** in Australia's step-by-step guide for dogs or cats.

Pets from Hawaii and Guam **must fully** complete the identity check process to export to Australia under the Category 2 import conditions. If you cannot complete the identity check process, contact Australia's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry at imports@agriculture.gov.au for advice before proceeding with any other steps.

Follow the instructions below (steps 1–12) to have your pet's identity verified.

There are multiple fees for this service, as noted below.

Identity declarations are valid for as long as the animal:

- can be identified by the verified microchip on the declaration, **and**
- resides in a group 1 or group 2 approved country.

Part 1

1. Take your pet to a USDA-accredited veterinarian and have them complete the identity declaration (324.71 KB).
    - The veterinarian may complete the declaration directly within VEHCS. They do not need to fill out the PDF version.
2. The accredited veterinarian **must** take a color photo(s) of the pet and the microchip scanner with the microchip number visible.
    - At least one photo should have both the scanner, with the microchip number visible, and at least a significant portion of the pet together in the same photo.
3. The accredited veterinarian **must** use VEHCS to submit the identity declaration and photo(s) to USDA for endorsement.
    - A user fee to USDA is required for the endorsement of the declaration.
    - In VEHCS, click "New Certificate."
        - For “Destination Country,” select “Australia.”
        - For “Commodity Type,” select "Dogs & cats - ID declaration part 1 or 2."

    - VEHCS will generate the certificate. The veterinarian does not need to fill out the PDF form before going to VEHCS.
    - On the “Attachments” screen, upload the photo(s).
4. After the accredited veterinarian submits the identity declaration and photo(s) in VEHCS, USDA will review and endorse. The accredited veterinarian **must** provide the endorsed certificate number to you (the pet owner/exporter).

Part 2

5. After completing steps 1–4 in Part 1, you must take your pet to a **different** USDA-accredited veterinarian at a **different** veterinary clinic and have them complete a new identity declaration (324.71 KB).
    - The veterinarian may complete the declaration directly within VEHCS. They do not need to fill out the PDF version.
    - The two accredited veterinarians should work at different clinics.
6. The second accredited veterinarian **must** take a color photo(s) of the pet and the microchip scanner with the microchip number visible.
    - At least one photo should have both the scanner, with the microchip number visible, and at least a significant portion of the pet together in the same photo.
7. The second accredited veterinarian **must** use VEHCS to submit the identity declaration and photo(s) to USDA for endorsement.
    - A user fee to USDA is required for the endorsement of the declaration.
    - In VEHCS, click "New Certificate."
        - For “Destination Country,” select “Australia.”
        - For “Commodity Type,” select “Dogs & cats - ID declaration part 1 or 2.”
        - VEHCS will generate the certificate. The veterinarian does not need to fill out the PDF form before going to VEHCS.
        - On the “Attachments screen,” upload the photo(s).
8. After the accredited veterinarian submits the identity declaration and photo(s) in VEHCS, USDA will review and endorse. The accredited veterinarian **must** provide the endorsed certificate number to you (the pet owner/exporter).

Part 3 below MUST still be completed by the accredited veterinarian.

Part 3

Part 3 **must** be endorsed within **3 months** of the date of the first microchip scanning. Please submit requests in a timely manner.

9. One of the accredited veterinarians **must** then logon to VEHCS and submit a request for completion of the USDA identity declaration (required by Australia). The exporter will need to have both accredited veterinarian declarations that were previously completed.

- A user fee to USDA is required for the endorsement of the declaration.
- In VEHCS, click "New Certificate."
    - For “Destination Country,” select “Australia.”
    - For “Commodity Type,” select “Dogs & cats – final ID declaration part 3.”
    - VEHCS will generate the certificate. The veterinarian does not need to fill out a PDF form before going to VEHCS.
    - No attachments are required, but it is preferred that you use the ‘related certificate’ feature in VEHCS to link the ID declaration part 1 and 2 to this submission.

10. After the request is submitted, USDA will complete a separate identity declaration, based on the information provided by the two accredited veterinarians in the first and second accredited veterinarian identity declarations. USDA will upload the endorsed USDA identity declaration in VEHCS and email it directly to Australia.
11. Once the USDA identity declaration certificate is marked "Completed" in VEHCS , you/the exporter may then proceed to the next step in Australia’s step-by-step guide for dogs or cats.
12. You **must** retain a copy of the endorsed USDA identity declaration to attach to the export health certificate that must accompany the pet during travel to Australia.

Testing for Leishmania, Leptospira, and Brucella

Australia requires dogs to be tested for:

- *Leishmania infantum*
- *Leptospira interrogans* serovar Canicola (not required if fully vaccinated according to manufacturer's recommendations)
- *Brucella canis* (not required if spayed/neutered)

All laboratory submission forms (the form that accompanies the blood sample to the laboratory) must:

- Include the dog's microchip number correctly recorded.
- Indicate the testing is for export. An approved laboratory must conduct the testing.

All laboratory reports must include:

- The dog's microchip number correctly recorded.
- Blood sampling date
- Test type
- Test result

For *Brucella canis*, one of the following test types must be used (listed on the export health certificate):

- RSAT
- TAT
- IFAT

Only the standard versions of the tests listed above will be accepted.

The following tests are **not** approved:

- 2ME-RSAT
- 2ME-TAT
- AGID/AGID II
- Canine Brucella Multiplex Assay
- Brucella Slide Agglutination/AGID II combination test

Health Certificate Information

Regarding Crate Seal: *Before* submitting the health certificate to USDA for endorsement, the pet's veterinarian must contact the USDA endorsement office to obtain an official seal, which must be placed on the pet's crate on the day of departure. The pet's veterinarian must record the seal number on the health certificate *before* submitting it to USDA.

We strongly recommend that USDA-accredited veterinarians use VEHCS to complete the export health certificate for submission to USDA. USDA **must** endorse the export health certificate. Find a USDA endorsement office.

- When creating the certificate in VEHCS:
  - For "Destination Country," select “Australia.”
  - For "Commodity Type," select either “Dog from Hawaii or Guam” or “Cat from Hawaii or Guam.”
- The accredited veterinarian must use the health certificate available in VEHCS or the applicable health certificate listed below (the veterinarian may navigate directly to VEHCS without downloading this PDF). The health certificate provided in the Australian-issued import permit is not specific for pets from the United States.
  - Dog from Hawaii or Guam (1.23 MB)
  - Cat from Hawaii or Guam (250.89 KB)
- Leptospirosis vaccination section on new model health certificate:
  - If the pet received a primary course (two vaccinations) before export, the accredited veterinarian must record the details of **both** vaccinations on the health certificate.
  - If the pet received an annual booster before export, the accredited veterinarian must record the details of that vaccination **and** the details of the last vaccination given before the booster.

Documents for Travel

The following completed and **USDA-endorsed** documents must accompany your pet for travel to Australia:

- Part 3 USDA Identity Declaration

- Laboratory Reports
- Export Health Certificate

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.

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 Select Destination Cour ▼ Go

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