Pet Travel From the United States to Bahamas

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ANIMALS ORIGINATING FROM NEW WORLD SCREWWORM INFESTED ZONES:

The Bahamas Agricultural Health and Food Safety Authority requires that New World Screwworm specific protocols be for exports of **certain commodities** originating from **New World Screwworm-infested zones** as defined by the APHIS NWS Response Playbook. When exporting these commodities from NWS-infested zones, exports must comply with the statements of the "Export Protocols - Animals Originating from NWS-Infested Zones (232.24 KB)" and incorporate them into the export health certificate.

This applies to the following commodities originating from NWS infested zones: bovines, buffalo, sheep, goats, swine, farmed cervics, horses, dogs*, cats*, birds.

*Please note, the VEHCS-defined health certificates for travel of pet dogs and cats already include the required statements.

- Export Protocols - Animals Originating from NWS-Infested Zones (232.24 KB)

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

EFFECTIVE January 1, 2027: Pet dogs/cats traveling to the Bahamas WILL be required to travel with an export health certificate (see below) electronically signed by a USDA-accredited veterinarian and electronically endorsed by APHIS.

An import permit must be obtained from the Bahamas Agricultural Health Food Safety and Authority, 99 Crawford Street, Nassau, The Bahamas. Please see their website for detailed instructions on how to apply https://bahfsabahamas.com/services/epermitting-for-imports . **Apply at least 4 weeks in advance.**

- Import Permit Application for Dogs and Cats
- Health Certificate for Pet Dogs (197.97 KB)

- Health Certificate for Pet Cats (191.06 KB)

Export Protocols - Animals Originating from NWS-Infested Zones (232.24 KB)

Pet Birds

Apply at least 4 weeks in advance.

An import permit must be obtained from the Bahamas Agricultural Health Food Safety and Authority, 99 Crawford Street, Nassau, The Bahamas. Please see their website for detailed instructions on how to apply https://bahfsabahamas.com/services/epermitting-for-imports . **Apply at least 4 weeks in advance.**

- Import Permit Application for Pet Birds

Pet Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Hamsters, Chinchillas

An import permit must be obtained from the Bahamas Agricultural Health Food Safety and Authority, 99 Crawford Street, Nassau, The Bahamas. Please see their website for detailed instructions on how to apply https://bahfsabahamas.com/services/epermitting-for-imports . **Apply at least 4 weeks in advance.**

Provide your USDA-accredited veterinarian with the "CONDITIONS FOR IMPORTATION OF SMALL ANIMALS (RABBITS, GUINEA PIGS, HAMSTERS, and CHINCHILLAS (186.6 KB))"

Your USDA-accredited veterinarian must insert the statements from these conditions (as appropriate to your species of pet) into Field 9 of the APHIS 7001 form. Once this form has been completed and the requirements fully satisfied, your USDA-accredited veterinarian must submit the form for digital APHIS endorsement via VEHCS.

Other Pets

An import permit must be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, P.O. Box N-3704 Nassau, Bahamas. **Apply at least 4 weeks in advance.**

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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