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Pet Travel From the United States to Barbados

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](#)

Pet Dogs and Cats

Barbados divides countries into one of two categories based on their rabies risk.

- Category 1: Countries and territories that are rabies free or those that present a low risk with respect to rabies- **this includes the United States**
- Category 2: All other countries and territories. **Animals travelling by sea (e.g. on yachts, cruise ships and cargo vessels) also fall into this category**

NOTICE: Failure to satisfy all of the health conditions laid out in the health requirements will result in your pet being refused entry into Barbados

[Expand All](#)

STEP 1: Microchip

All dogs and cats entering Barbados must be permanently identified with a microchip (ISO Standard 11784 or Annex A to standard 11785) and must be vaccinated against rabies after microchip implantation. Only ISO standard microchips should be used.

The identification number stated in the certificate should be identical to that which can be found on the animal. All supporting certificates (rabies vaccination, laboratory test results) should bear the microchip number. The certifying veterinarian must be able to verify the microchip number before signing the certificate.

STEP 2: Import Permit

An Import Permit must first be obtained from the [Veterinary Services Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management, Barbados](#). Permits are valid for six (6) months from the date of issue. Application forms are available from the Veterinary Services office or can be downloaded from the Ministry of Agriculture's website.

STEP 3: Rabies Vaccination

The animal must be implanted with a microchip before or at the time of vaccination against rabies. Only inactivated virus vaccines manufactured in compliance with the recommendations of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Manual should be used. The validity

of the vaccine is according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

The vaccination should have been carried out when the animal was at least three (3) months old. In the case of a booster vaccination, the booster must have been administered on or before the date of expiry of the previous vaccine.

There is a wait of thirty-five (35) days from the date of administration of a primary rabies vaccination or revaccination of an expired or missed rabies booster vaccination before your dog or cat is eligible to enter Barbados. If the vaccine manufacturer's data sheet requires more than one vaccination to complete the primary course of vaccinations, the 35 day wait applies from the date of the final vaccination of that course. The day of vaccination counts as day 0.

STEP 4: Testing and Treatments

Heartworm Disease Test

Dog over 6 months old must be tested for heartworm disease within the 30 days prior to leaving the U.S. (Cats do not require a heartworm test):

- ELISA antigen tests such as the IDEXX® SNAP® test kit may be used. If the ELISA test is positive or if the animal was previously treated for heartworm, then the modified Knott's test may be carried out to demonstrate the absence of microfilaraemia.

Parasite Treatment

Dogs must be treated for ticks and tapeworms within the 7 days prior to leaving the U.S. The tapeworm treatment must contain praziquantel. Cats do not require parasite treatment.

Rabies Antibody Titer Test

Animals that have been in a Category 2 country in the 3 months prior to travel from the U.S. to Barbados as well as pets arriving by sea must be tested for rabies antibodies using a FAVN test done at an approved laboratory. The test must be done

at least 30 days after rabies vaccination with results ≥ 0.5 IU/ml. In the case of a failed test result (less than 0.5 IU/ml), the animal must be revaccinated and retested before travel is be allowed.

- [View a list of approved laboratories](#)

STEP 5: Health Certificate

All dogs and cats entering Barbados must be accompanied by an Official Export Health Certificate endorsed (signed and stamped) by the Official Veterinary Services of the country of origin. Within seven (7) days of travel, the pets must undergo a veterinary examination and be issued with an Official Veterinary Export Health Certificate.

The Official Health Certificate must be endorsed (signed and stamped) by an **Official Government/Federal Veterinarian**. This may not be the same veterinarian who carries out the procedures and/or fills out the health certificate. The Official Veterinarian should see the import permit before issuing the Export Health Certificate.

The export health certificate is valid for a period of 10 days from the date of endorsement by the Official Veterinarian. In the case of animals travelling by sea, validity can be extended for the period of the voyage

Residency: Cats and dogs from Category 1 countries must demonstrate that they have spent at least three (3) months continuously either in the country of export or in other Category 1 countries immediately prior to entry. This three (3) month period may be partly in the country of export and partly in another Category 1 country. If the latter is the case, the certifying veterinarian must be able to verify this prior to signing the certificate. All animals that do not fall into Category 1, including pets that have not been in a Category 1 country for more than 3 months and animals arriving by sea must satisfy the conditions for Category 2

[International Health Certificate](#) (362.67 KB)

STEP 6: Give 3-Day Notice

You must give at least three (3) working days' notice of the expected date and time of arrival of the animal. Failure to do so will result in significant delays in receiving your pet once it arrives.

Contact Veterinary Services at (246) 427-5492; (246)427-5073; Fax: (246) 429-2143; email: vetservices@caribsurf.com.

Please provide the following information:

- Name, address (in Barbados) and contact information of the owner/agent;
- Name and contact information of the Customs broker;
- Date and time of arrival;
- Airline and Flight number or vessel name

STEP 7: Customs Clearance

1. **All pets must clear customs and veterinary checks upon arrival. You will need to employ the services of a customs broker to facilitate customs clearance.**
2. **The Airlines must issue a “Pre-Alert” notifying the relevant parties in Barbados of the pets on board the aircraft.** [Animal (Diseases and Importation Control) Regulations CAP. 253, Section 5].
3. Upon arrival, the animals are taken from the aircraft directly to the Animal Reception Centre for veterinary checks and customs clearance. Pets accompanying passengers in the aircraft cabin must be handed over to the aircraft handling agents upon disembarkation.
4. Once approval has been given for the pet to enter the country, a Customs Officer will apply the relevant duties (as all live animals entering Barbados are recognised as cargo) and the pets can be collected by their owner..

Fees: In addition to custom duties, Barbados legislation allows for the collection of various fees on the importation of dogs and cats. Animals landed in Barbados outside of Government working hours, 8:15 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Weekends and Bank Holidays are subject to overtime inspection fees.

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](#)

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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](#)
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