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Pet Travel From the United States to Belize

Last Modified:

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.

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Dogs and Cats

Note: Certificates for pet dogs and cats to Belize do not require APHIS endorsement.

[Expand All](#)

STEP 1: Import Permit

All cats and dogs exported from the United States to Belize require an import permit. In order to obtain the latest import requirements and download permit application please visit the [Belize Agricultural Health Authority website](#).

Belize contact information:

Tel: 011-501-824-4872/99

Fax: 011-501-824-4889

E-mail: animalhealthbz@gmail.com

STEP 2: Veterinary Health Certificate

Pets are to be accompanied by a [veterinary health certificate](#) (333.88 KB) **issued by a USDA accredited veterinarian**. USDA endorsement of the health certificate is not required.

1. It is ***strongly recommended*** that:
 - a. All dogs be vaccinated against Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, and Parvovirus.
 - b. All cats be vaccinated against Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calici Virus, and, Panleucopaenia.
 - c. Pets be treated against **endoparasites and ectoparasites** within thirty (30) days of exportation.
2. **Pets less than four (4) months of age**: rabies vaccination is waived as an import requirement but pets will be held in home quarantine in Belize until thirty (30) days after rabies vaccination can be administered by a registered veterinarian.
3. Importer must notify date, time and flight number to BAHA two days before pets arrive to ensure that a veterinary officer is present at the time of entry. All pet animals entering Belize are to be inspected by a BAHA official.
4. The transport cage is to be new or cleaned and disinfected prior to use for the exportation of the pet.

Birds

Note: Certificates for pet birds to Belize require endorsement (review/countersigning) by USDA APHIS after issuance (signing) by the USDA Accredited Veterinarian. This country allows USDA Accredited Veterinarians to use USDA's online Veterinary Export Health Certification System VEHCS to complete

health certificates. VEHCS may need the USDA Accredited Veterinarian to upload the completed fillable PDF version found below. Either save a copy of the PDF below, or return to this page for the health certificate, if prompted by VEHCS USDA Accredited Veterinarians, log in [here](#) if you wish to use VEHCS.

1. The Director of Animal Health is to be notified seven (7) days in advance of date and time of arrival of pet birds at point of entry. Veterinary examination of birds at point of entry will be done in addition to regular inspection. For your information, the telephone numbers of veterinarians to contact are:
 - Dr. Victor Gongora - Central Farm - Ph: 824 - 4899/4972 (Director of Animal Health)
 - Dr. Joe Myers - Orange Walk - Ph: 322-3257 (Santa Elena Northern Border)
 - Dr. Miguel DePaz - Cayo - Ph: 824-4899/4872 (Benque Viejo Western Border, and Big Creek)
 - Dr. Miguel Figueroa -Belize District - Ph:224-4794/5230 (International Airport)
2. **Prior to the issue of an import permit for the importation of pet birds:**
 - a. An import risk analysis must be done and recommendations from the risk analysis must be favorable.
 - b. The Veterinary Officer in the district where pet birds will be quarantined must certify that the quarantine station meets biosecurity standards and has spoken to importer re: quarantine arrangements and costs.
 - c. An import license from the Forest Department must be obtained. **This import license will outline the requirements your pet bird must meet to travel to Belize.**
3. The pet birds and accompanying documents are to be presented to the Veterinary Officer at the point of entry. Pet birds not permitted entry will be returned to origin or confiscated at the expense of the importer.
4. The pet birds are to be inspected at the port of entry into Belize and are not to show any signs of fresh wounds, wounds in the process of healing, tumors, ectoparasites and signs of infectious or contagious disease.
5. Any cost incurred in the processing of pet birds for entry into Belize will be borne by the importer.
6. Pet birds allowed entry into Belize will be subjected to a period of quarantine not less than thirty (30) days. During quarantine the pet birds may be retested and must be negative to any test done before being released from quarantine. These costs as well as cost of supervision during quarantine period, including

cost of any health measure taken during the period, are to be borne by the importer.

7. The vehicles used to transport the pet birds from the port of entry into Belize to the quarantine station were cleaned and disinfected.
8. **No feed or bedding accompanying the pet birds will be allowed entry.**
9. Pet birds are to be accompanied by an official international veterinary certificate and addendum. The health certificate must be endorsed by the USDA.
10. [Health Certificate for Pet Birds](#) (155.3 KB) (155.3 KB)

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](#)

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[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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