Pet Travel From the United States to Canada

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

Pet Dogs OLDER than 8 Months

Pet dogs OLDER than 8 months ***do NOT require*** any health certificate.

- Proof of rabies vaccination is ***all*** that is required for dogs in the following categories:
  - any dog greater than 8 months of age
  - assistance animals certified as guide, hearing or service dogs, if the person accompanying the dog to Canada is the user of the dog
  - two or less pet dogs accompanied by their owner to Canada
  - any dog exported on a temporary basis for competition in a show or trial, if at the time of importation proof of entry in a show or trial is provided.
- **Rabies vaccination certificate** as proof of rabies vaccination
  - Required for all dogs greater than 3 months of age (with the exception of assistance dogs certified as a guide, hearing or service dogs which accompany their user into Canada)
  - Issued by licensed vet, proving vaccination within 3 years of importation into Canada.
  - Proof of rabies vaccination by documenting on a health certificate, if a health certificate is required.

Learn more about traveling with your dog from the U.S. to Canada

Pet Dogs YOUNGER than 8 Months

Pet dogs YOUNGER than 8 months old ***MAY require*** a health certificate from a licensed veterinarian in the United States. Please see below for more information:

The below information applies to non-commercial shipments of privately owned pets only. If you are shipping pets for commercial purposes, please view the requirements on Canada's page of APHIS' International Regulations (IRegs) website.

Unaccompanied dogs (puppies not traveling with their owner):

- Shipments of 1-2 dogs less than 8 months of age which travel unaccompanied are required to be examined and have a health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian within 72 hours of arrival in Canada.
- The full travel requirements are described in the provided health certificate*. This certificate does not need to be endorsed by APHIS.

Health Certificate (63.24 KB)

Accompanied dogs (puppies traveling with their owner):

- Shipments of 1-2 dogs less than 8 months of age traveling with their owner are only required to travel with proof of current rabies vaccination*.

*Dogs younger than three months old are not required to be vaccinated for rabies but proof of the dog's age must be available to Canadian Officials. All dogs greater than 3 months of age, with the exception of assistance dogs certified as a guide, hearing or service dogs which accompany their user into Canada, must have proof of current rabies vaccination to travel to Canada.

Learn more about traveling with your dog from the U.S. to Canada

Cats

Pet cats ***do NOT require*** any health certificate

- **Rabies vaccination certificate** - issued by licensed veterinarian, proving vaccination within 3 years of importation into Canada
  - Kittens under 3 months of age exempt from rabies vaccination
  - Date of vaccination and the type of vaccine must be on the vaccination certificate

Learn more about traveling with your cat from the U.S. to Canada.

Pet Birds

Note: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) requires the Veterinary Services Trade Route Mapping Tool (646.62 KB) to be used. Exporters MUST use this mapping tool, not Google maps, not the USDA confirmed HPAI detections map, nor any other map. CFIA will start refusing shipments that do not meet these requirements. Please carefully read the details below.

CFIA prohibits the movement of all live birds (including pet birds), live poultry, and hatching eggs which originate from, or transit through trade restriction zones established due to detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in poultry.

Exporters are advised to plan transit routes in advance of travel to avoid transit through restricted zones or otherwise risk delays or rejection of shipments.

Exporters MUST provide the following document to demonstrate the route of travel to Canadian border/port officials. This document must accompany the health certificate but is NOT endorsed by APHIS.

- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Control/Restricted Zone Routing Addendum (112.24 KB) - October 2026
    - NOTE: Starting November 26, 2026, all shipments must use this specific document. The accredited veterinarian can sign the routing addendum either in ink or electronically using Adobe with the date/time stamp.
- Insert a map of the intended route of transit – **must** use the Veterinary Services Trade Route Mapping Tool (646.62 KB)(not Google maps)

For live birds, live poultry, and hatching eggs **traveling by air** from the United States to Canada, in addition to the guidance above:

- The exporter should provide a map of their route from the place of origin to the first airport, to demonstrate that the first part of their travel does not transit through any restricted zones.
- For any layovers, rather than provide a map of the layover airport, the exporter can include a comment that the travel includes a second airport in the United States and this second airport is not located in a restricted zone.

Follow the steps in the document entitled "Veterinary Services Trade Route Mapping Tool Access Guide" below to access the Trade Route Mapping Tool.

Veterinary Services Trade Route Mapping Tool Access Guide (646.62 KB) - March 2025

The requirements for traveling with your pet are described in the health certificate. If submission will be via the Veterinary Export Health Certificate System (VEHCS), you may navigate directly to VEHCS without downloading this PDF.

Health Certificate (219.38 KB) - April 2024

Ferrets

Pet ferrets *do NOT require* any health certificate.

Ferrets over 3 months of age should have received a rabies vaccination within the 12 months prior to travel to Canada.

Rabies vaccinated ferrets should travel with a rabies vaccination certificate documenting the pet's most recent rabies vaccination. The vaccination certificate should clearly identify your pet and must minimally include its sex, age, and breed. The rabies vaccination certificate must be signed by a licensed veterinarian of the United States.

Additional Information
Any ferret over 3 months of age traveling without proof of rabies vaccination can be immediately vaccinated upon arrival in Canada at a veterinary clinic without quarantine.

Other Pets

More information about pets can be found on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency web site. 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 recommended 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 Embassy & 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

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- 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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