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Pet Travel From the United States to China

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 and Cats for Entry into ANY Port & No Quarantine Required

*****IF A PET DOES NOT MEET ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS BELOW, IT MUST ENTER THROUGH A DESIGNATED PORT** (as outlined in the "Pet Dogs and Cats for Entry into a Designated Port and Quarantine Required" dropdown menu), **OR IT WILL BE EUTHANIZED OR RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES.*****

Effective May 1, 2019, China will allow entry of U.S. pets (dogs and cats) to enter through any port of arrival in China without a quarantine, **ONLY IF ALL** the following conditions are met.

Expand All

Step 1: Proof of rabies vaccination

- Your pet must have been vaccinated at least TWICE in its lifetime, and **be CURRENT on rabies vaccinations at the time of arrival in China.**
- An original copy of the current rabies vaccine certificate must accompany the APHIS-endorsed health certificate, and at the time of arrival in China will need to be provided to, and may be kept by, the Quarantine Officials.
- Please travel with photocopies of your pet's rabies vaccine certificate, as they may be requested.

Step 2: Identification with microchip

- Your pet must be individually identified by microchip.
- Your pet should be implanted with an ISO compliant (11784 and 11785) microchip. ISO compliant microchips are 15 digits long.
    - If your pet does **not have** an ISO compliant microchip, you will need to travel with a microchip reader that can read your pet's microchip.

Step 3: Proof of rabies titer tests

- Your pet must be accompanied by an original rabies titer test laboratory report which states the pet has an antibody titer of at least 0.5 IU/mL and this report must accompany the APHIS-endorsed health certificate, and at the time of arrival in China will need to be provided to, and may be kept by, the Quarantine Officials.
- Rabies testing must be performed at one of the following approved laboratories:
    - DoD Food Analysis & Diagnostic Laboratory, Fort Sam Houston, TX
    - Kansas State University Rabies Laboratory, Manhattan, KS
    - Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Pathobiology Virology Laboratory, Auburn, AL
    - National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, GA
    - University of Missouri Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Laboratory, Columbia, MO
- Testing must occur on the same day as, or any day after administration of the second rabies vaccination.
- Rabies titer test sampling date, laboratory name and test results must be recorded on the health certificate, and are considered valid for **UP TO ONE YEAR** after the sampling date.

NOTE: Pets originating from Hawaii or Guam are exempt from the rabies titer testing requirement.

Step 4: International Health Certificate

- Only one (1) pet per traveler is allowed. The traveler’s name must be on the pet’s veterinary health certificate (Ex: Consignor’s Name) and match the name on the traveler’s passport.
- Each pet must have its own veterinary health certificate, and only one (1) pet may be listed per certificate.

- Health certificates must be issued by your USDA accredited veterinarian within 14 days of arrival in China, and be electronically endorsed by USDA-APHIS using the VEHCS system.
- Health certificates must contain **all** of the following information about the pet:

1. Microchip number, date and location of implantation
2. Date of birth or age
3. Rabies vaccine information, including:
    - Type (inactive, modified or recombinant)
    - Date of administration
    - Date of vaccine validity expiration (**MUST be valid at the time of arrival in China**)
    - Name of the vaccine administered
    - Name of the vaccine manufacturing company
4. Rabies antibody titer test information, including:
    - Sample collection date (**MUST be within one year of the date of arrival in China)**
    - Name of laboratory used
    - Rabies titer test results
5. Attestation that the pet has undergone clinical examination and is free of signs of disease.

- Printed copies of electronically endorsed APHIS veterinary health certificates must be accompanied by an original copy of the current rabies vaccine certificate and the rabies titer laboratory report. At the time of arrival in China, all three documents will need to be provided to, and may be kept by, the Quarantine Officials.

Health certificates for pet dogs and cats to China MUST BE issued by the USDA accredited veterinarian and electronically submitted through VEHCS for digital endorsement by APHIS. A printed copy must accompany the shipment.

Health Certificate for Dog(s) (206.15 KB)- January 2026
Health Certificate for Cat(s) (204.76 KB)- January 2026

Step 5: Documentation upon arrival

- The pet's APHIS-endorsed health certificate must be accompanied by an original copy of the current rabies vaccine certificate and the rabies titer laboratory report.
- One photocopy of the traveler’s passport is required for each pet.
- A digital photo of the pet printed on regular paper, and one photocopy, are also required.
    - For large dogs it is best to have something in the photo to help judge the size of the animal.

Upon arrival, you will need to take the pet, fees, and all documents to the General Administration of Customs of the Peoples Republic of China (GACC) office at the airport and these documents may be kept by the Quarantine Officials.

Step 6 registering your pet upon arrival in China

Dogs need to be registered with the **local police** of your place of residence within one month of arrival in China.

- Contact the local police office for further information on registering your pet.

Pet Dogs and Cats for Entry into a Designated Port and Quarantine Required

UNLESS A PET CAN MEET ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS ABOVE** (as outlined in the “Pet Dogs and Cats for Entry into ANY Port and No Quarantine Required” dropdown menu), **IT MUST ENTER THROUGH A DESIGNATED PORT, OR IT WILL BE EUTHANIZED OR RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES.**
Effective May 1, 2019, China will allow entry of U.S. pets (dogs and cats) to enter China through any port without a quarantine **ONLY IF** the pet has been vaccinated twice for rabies, is microchipped, and has a valid rabies titer (except for pets from Hawaii and Guam).

Any pet that cannot meet those requirements **MUST** enter China through one of the designated ports listed below, and will be required to complete a 30-day post-arrival quarantine:

Port Name	Customs Name
Beijing Capital Airport	Capital Airport Customs
Beijing West Railway Station	Beijing West Railway Station Customs
Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport	Hongqiao International Airport Customs
Shanghai Pudong International Airport	Pudong International Airport Customs
Shanghai Railway Station	Station Customs
Shanghai International Passenger Transport Center	Pujiang Customs
Wusongkou International Cruise Terminal	Wusong Customs
Urumqi Diwopu International Airport	Urumqi Airport Customs
Alashankou	Alashankou Customs
Guangzhou Baiyun Airport	Guangzhou Customs

Expand All

Step 1: Proof of rabies vaccination

- Your pet must be current on rabies vaccinations at the time of arrival in China.
- An original copy of the current rabies vaccine certificate will need to be provided to, and may be kept by, the Quarantine Officials upon arrival in China.
- Please travel with photocopies of your pet's rabies vaccine certificate, as they may be requested.

Step 2: International Health certificate

- Only one (1) pet per traveler is allowed. The traveler's name must be on the pet's veterinary health certificate (Ex: Consignor's Name) and match the name on the traveler's passport.
- Each pet must have its own veterinary health certificate, and only one (1) pet may be listed per certificate.
- Health certificates must be issued by your USDA accredited veterinarian within 14 days of arrival in China, and be electronically endorsed by USDA-APHIS using the VEHCS system.
- Health certificates must contain **all** of the following information about the pet:

1. Date of birth or age
2. Rabies vaccine information, including:
    - Type (inactive, modified or recombinant)
    - Date of administration
    - Date of vaccine validity expiration
    - Name of the vaccine administered
    - Name of the vaccine manufacturing company
3. Attestation that the pet has undergone clinical examination and is free of signs of disease.

Health certificates for pet dogs and cats to China MUST BE issued by the USDA accredited veterinarian and electronically submitted through VEHCS

for digital endorsement by APHIS. A printed copy must accompany the shipment.

Health Certificate for Dog(s) (206.15 KB)- January 2026
Health Certificate for Cat(s) (204.76 KB)- January 2026

Step 3: Customs and Quarantine

- Chinese Customs needs to be notified of your pet's arrival in advance of travel.
- On arrival, you will need to take the pet, fees, and certificates to the General Administration of Customs of the Peoples Republic of China (GACC) office at the airport.
- The pet is required to complete a 30-day quarantine in the GACC designated facility.
    - During quarantine, if clinical symptoms are observed, pets will be required to have an examination and undergo laboratory testing.
    - The pet will be released only after the pet is determined to be healthy and has passed the required testing.
    - Learn more about quarantine.

Step 4: Registering your Pet upon Arrival in China

Dogs need to be registered with the **local police** of your place of residence within one month of arrival in China.

- Contact the local police office for further information on registering your pet.

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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