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Pet Travel From the United States to El Salvador

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.

[Expand All](#)

Dogs and Cats

[Expand All](#)

STEP 1: Import Permit

Dogs and cats traveling to El Salvador must have an import permit issued by the General Direction of Plant and Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of El Salvador. The import permit can be obtained either prior to travel or at the moment of its arrival at the port of entry.

STEP 2: Health Certificate

The requirements for traveling with your pet are described in the provided health certificate. The health certificate must be issued by a licensed veterinarian. USDA endorsement is NOT required. *Los requisitos para viajar con su mascota a El Salvador están descritos en el certificado de salud provisto. El certificado de salud debe ser expedido por un veterinario licenciado. No se requiere que el USDA endose el certificado.*

[International Health Certificate](#) (42.42 KB) / [Certificado Veterinario de Salud](#)

Additional Information *Información adicional*

1. The accompanying health certificate should be made out at least in duplicate. / *El certificado de salud debe ser emitido en duplicado.*
2. The rabies vaccination certificate should accompany the health documents. / *El certificado de vacunación contra la rabia debe acompañar a los documentos de salud.*
3. Personal pet dogs and cats must obtain a quarantine permit at the port of entry upon arrival in El Salvador. / *Perros y gatos personales necesitan un permiso de cuarentena que debe ser adquirido en el puerto de entrada a El Salvador*

Animals exported in commercial lot numbers must be accompanied by an import permit issued by the General Directorate of Plant and Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of El Salvador. The import permit can be obtained either prior to travel or at the moment of its arrival at the port of entry. / *Exportaciones comerciales de animals deben estar acompañadas de un permiso de importación expedido por la Dirección General de Sanidad Vegetal y Animal, Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería.*

4. The health certificate does NOT need to be signed by a Notary Public, nor does it need to be stamped by the El Salvador Consular office. / *El certificado de salud no necesita la firma de de un notario público, ni necesita el endoso del Consulado de El Salvador.*

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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- [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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