# Pet Travel From the United States to Hong Kong

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.

For all health certificates submitted through VEHCS for shipments of U.S. origin animals and germplasm that are only *transiting* Hong Kong, select the **Hong Kong (Transit)** option from the “Country of Destination” dropdown menu.

All health certificates for noncommercial shipments (i.e., pets) of small animals ( **excluding** dogs, cats, chinchillas, and birds) do not need to be endorsed by an APHIS veterinary medical officer if it has been issued by a private USDA-accredited veterinarian. Health certificates must be issued within 14 days of departure.

APHIS endorsement of the health certificates for **pet dogs, cats, chinchillas, and birds** is required after it has been issued by a USDA-accredited veterinarian within 14 days of departure.

Expand All

## Dogs and Cats

Hong Kong has provided a website that contains helpful information related to pet travel.  Please note an import permit is required prior to travel to Hong Kong. You will need to review these sites carefully as well as all information included in the import permit to ensure that all of the requirements for Hong Kong are met.

Overview of Hong Kong's travel requirements and import permit application process .

- Specific requirements for a pet to travel to Hong Kong
- Import Permit Application

APHIS endorsement of the health certificate is required after it has been issued by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian.

### Health Certificates

**NOTE:** Only ONE pet may be listed per health certificate.

- Pet Dogs and Cats - From Continental U.S. - Health Certificate (169.63 KB)

**NOTE:** The health certificate for ‘Pet Dogs and Cats- From Continental U.S.’ can be generated through the Veterinary Export Health Certificate System (VEHCS).

- For animals traveling from Hawaii ONLY (42.69 KB)

**Additional information for pets originating from Hawaii:**

1. Pets that originate from Hawaii but are being located in the continental US prior to export are required to use the health certificate associated with the continental US.
2. Animals that are transiting the continental US from Hawaii, i.e. changing planes and not exiting the plane/cargo area, may continue to use the requirements for Hawaii.

In both cases, the owner/agent must contact AFCD for further information prior to any travel arrangements, as additional dispensation +/- certification/declaration may be required to allow for the pet to enter Hong Kong.

## Chinchillas

Health certificates for U.S. origin pet chinchillas to Hong Kong must be signed by the animal’s owner in Part A, issued by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian (referred to as the “official / registered veterinary surgeon”) in Part B, and endorsed by an APHIS Veterinarian (the “full time Government Veterinary Officer”) in Part C, within 14 days of departure.

All statements in Parts B and C must be true, and pet chinchillas for export must be captive-bred and over 12 weeks of age at the time of departure.

For export of other pet rodents, please visit Hong Kong's Web-site to learn more about importing these pets.

International Health Certificate (348.69 KB)

## Turtles and Reptiles

Visit Hong Kong's Web-site to learn more about importing these pets;

Pet animals (excluding dogs and cats) may be sent on the health certificate provided by Hong Kong's Agriculture, Fisheries, and Conservation Department (AFCD) or an APHIS Form 7001 health certificate (438.8 KB) that includes the stated requirements for the appropriate species as listed on the AFCD website and import permit.

## Birds

APHIS endorsement of the health certificates for pet birds is **required** after it has been issued by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian within 14 days of departure

Visit Hong Kong's web-site to learn more about importing pet birds.

## Pet Rabbits

Visit Hong Kong's Website to learn more about importing these pets.

- Rabbits – Pet/Non-Commercial – Health Certificate – June 2025

A health certificate for this commodity can be generated through the Veterinary Export Health Certificate System (VEHCS). The certificate **MUST BE PRINTED** and signed by the USDA accredited veterinarian in pen-and-ink signature within 14 days of departure. The certificate does NOT need APHIS endorsement.

## 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

Print