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Pet Travel From the United States to Israel

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.

Health certificates for pet travel to Israel can also be generated by the pet's veterinarian through the Veterinary Export Health Certification System ([VEHCS](#)). First, the pet's veterinarian will complete the fillable PDF health certificate found on this page. Then they will log on to VEHCS and enter the destination country and commodity to upload the certificate.

For optimal quality resolution, it is preferred that the pet's veterinarian sign the document using the ADOBE signature options, rather than printing, signing and scanning the certificate.

[Quick Reference Guides for the pet's veterinarian](#)

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](#) (7.58 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](#) (7.58 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](#) (7.58 MB) | [VEHCS Login](#)

[Read restrictions on entry of pets to Israel during COVID-19](#) (316.55 KB). This applies to all dogs and cats entering Israel, effective June 4, 2020, and until further notice.

A printed paper copy of the completed health certificate must accompany each shipment.

For mixed breed dogs, the USDA Accredited Veterinarian must specify the type of mixed breed on the export health certificate.

[Expand All](#)

Dogs and Cats

The requirements and fillable health certificate for travel of dogs and cats to Israel can be found in the below link to the health certificate. Please note that the pet's microchip must be implanted before or on the same date as the rabies vaccination documented on the health certificate.

The health certificate must be endorsed by APHIS after it has been issued by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian.

Israel prohibits the import of dogs belonging to the following dangerous breeds, as well as mixed breed dogs that are mixed with the following dangerous breeds:

- Staffordshire Bull Terrier (Amstaff)
- Bull Terrier
- Argentinean Dogo
- Japanese Tosa
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier (English Staff)
- Pitt Bull Terrier
- Brazilian Fila
- Rottweiler

USDA Accredited Veterinarians must not issue export health certificates for these dogs, unless the owner has a valid translated import license from Israel which is specific for dangerous dogs.

[Guidance Information for Pet Dogs and Cats](#) (216.38 KB)

[Veterinary Health Certificate for Dogs and Cats](#) (179.85 KB)

[Required Israeli Annex B and Annex C documents](#) (112.95 KB)

Birds

- A Veterinary Health Certificate is required for pet birds (parrots, psittacine and passerine) entering Israel.
- No more than 2 pet birds are allowed.
- An import permit is not required for pet birds accompanied by owner for non-commercial purposes.

[Veterinary Health Certificate for Pet Birds](#) (60.48 KB)

Chinchillas

A pre-import/entrance permit from the national wildlife authority in Israel is required. Please contact: Eti.sabag@npa.org.il

A Veterinary Health Certificate is required for chinchilla entering Israel. Requirements and instructions are available on the Health Certificate.

The health certificate must be endorsed by APHIS after it has been issued by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian.

[Veterinary Health Certificate for Pet Chinchillas](#) (148.49 KB)

Rabbits

A Veterinary Health Certificate is required for rabbits entering Israel. Requirements and instructions are available on the Health Certificate.

[Veterinary Health Certificate for Rabbits](#) (38.93 KB)

Reptiles

A Veterinary Health Certificate is required for reptiles entering Israel. Requirements and instructions are available on the Health Certificate. The health certificate must be endorsed by APHIS after it has been issued by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian within 5 days of export.

[Veterinary Health Certificate for Reptiles](#) (193.91 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](#)

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  [Go](#)

[Print](#)