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# Pet Travel From the United States to Korea

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](#) (7.58 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](#)

## 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**

### **Rabies vaccines and tests**

Rabies vaccines must be current and given prior to arrival in Korea. Rabies vaccine is not required for pets under 90 days old.

A rabies-neutralization antibody test (0.5 IU/ml or higher) must be completed\*. A rabies-neutralization test is not required for pets under 90 days old.

## Microchip

The pet(s) must have an ISO-compliant microchip\*

## Health Certificate

The pet(s) must be accompanied by a valid health certificate issued by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian and endorsed by USDA-APHIS within 30 days of export.

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

- [International Health Certificate for Dogs and Cats](#) (171.19 KB)

\* If the rabies neutralization antibody test and/or the microchip implantation could not be done prior to shipping (or the test is more than 24 months of departure), they can be done after arrival in Korea.

However, even in this case, a valid USDA endorsed health certificate is required.

Animals that have not been microchipped and/or had a rabies-neutralization antibody test performed will likely be held in quarantine at the owner's expense until any procedures or lab tests have been completed. Please contact South Korea using the link below for confirmation and additional information.

[Bringing Dogs and Cats to Korea \(Quarantine Inspection Website\)](#)

For military personnel traveling under official orders, you can find additional information at: <https://www.korea.amedd.army.mil/default.html>

## Ferrets

Pet ferrets originating from Hawaii or Guam are not required to have rabies vaccinations or rabies titer tests prior to travel, as they are considered by Korea to be regions free from rabies.

All other U.S. origin ferrets are required to be current on their rabies vaccinations and have a rabies titer test taken more than 3 months, but less than 12 months,

prior to travel. Titer test must be conducted at approved laboratories.

[International Health Certificate for Ferrets](#) (207.23 KB)

## Rabbits

[International Health Certificate for Rabbits](#) (432.4 KB)

## Birds

\* This health certificate may only be used for personal pet birds that are traveling with an owner/agent.

\* If the bird is intended for commercial purposes upon arrival **OR** is traveling via cargo, you must use the commercial pet bird health certificate found [here](#)

[International Health Certificate for Birds](#) (105.77 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](#)

■

## **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<sup>\*</sup>  
Norway<sup>\*\*</sup>  
Poland  
Portugal

Romania  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland<sup>\*\*</sup>

\* 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](mailto: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](#)