Breadcrumb

1. Home
2. Print
3. Pdf
4. Node
5. Entity Print

Pet Travel From the United States to Mexico

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.

New World Screwworm Notice

Due to the detection of New World screwworm (NWS, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*) in the United States, Mexico **prohibits exports** of the following species from **all U.S. States**:

- Ferrets
- All zoological species as listed under Zoological Animals and Other Animals on the IRegs Mexico page

UPDATE: Effective August 3, 2026, Mexico requires **NWS inspection documents** for the travel of **pet dogs and pet birds.** For more information, see the relevant sections below on this page. **Any improper or missing NWS inspection documentation could result in the pet dog or bird being denied entry or held at the border.**

As of December 16, 2019, pet cats no longer need a health certificate to enter Mexico. Cats may be taken to the border without health certificate documentation; they will be inspected by SENASICA upon arrival. Follow the guidance for cats in the section below. **Do not add pet cats to either the pet dog or pet bird forms—doing so will invalidate those forms and result in the animals being denied entry or held at the border.**

Expand All

Dogs

As of November 22, 2024, Mexico is considered to be affected with screwworm. All dogs (including U.S.-origin dogs returning to the United States after traveling to Mexico) must meet APHIS requirements for screwworm-freedom certification upon entry (re-entry). For more information, visit the APHIS Dog Import page.

Effective August 3, 2026, Mexico requires **NWS inspection documents** for the travel of **pet dogs.** Any improper or missing NWS inspection documentation could result in the pet dog being denied entry or held at the border.

Requirements for Dogs Originating In and Proceeding From the United States to Mexico

(SENASICA HRZ Combinacion number 007-35-61-USA-USA)

1. Upon entering Mexico with your pet in a clean carrier, you must proceed to the Agricultural and Livestock Health Inspection Office (OISA) to contact a SENASICA official or assisting personnel, who will verify that the animal:
    - Shows no signs of infectious or contagious diseases,
    - Is free of ectoparasites,*
    - Has no fresh wounds or wounds in the process of healing, and
    - **Has an NWS Inspection Certificate for Pet Dogs Moving (Exporting) From the United States to Mexico** (179.78 KB) **signed by a USDA-accredited veterinarian and issued no more than 5 days prior. This requirement took effect on August 3, 2026.**
        - **This document is to be issued directly by the USDA-accredited veterinarian and does *not* require APHIS endorsement.**
        - This HRZ only applies to domestic dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*).

* If ectoparasites are detected during the physical inspection, the owner must contact a veterinarian of their choice to administer effective treatment. If ticks are detected, SENASICA official or assisting personnel will take a sample of the ectoparasite(s) for diagnosis at the official laboratory and verify the removal of all specimens found on the pet. The pet will be held at OISA until it is confirmed that the specimens are not exotic to Mexico or subject to a specific control program; otherwise, SENASICA, through the General Directorate of Animal Health, will determine the measures to be applied. Any resulting costs shall be borne by the importer.

Other requirements to be met at the Agricultural and Livestock Health Inspection Office (OISA) upon presentation of the shipment:

2. Compliance with the provisions of this document does not exempt the importer from submitting documents or fulfilling formalities and/or procedures required by other authorities.
3. If the transport carrier arrives dirty and/or contains disposable bedding (puppy pads, newspaper, sawdust, rags); toys; or food items, disinfection will be performed and all such contents will be removed for proper destruction.

4. Only the portion of balanced feed intended for the day of arrival is permitted.

Note: If you travel regularly between the United States and Mexico with your dog, you can request to register in the "Pet Program - Frequent Traveler." For more information, contact the following phone numbers: 59051000 ext. 53611, 54326 and 51020, (0155) 43130154; 43130155 and 43130152.

- NWS Inspection Certificate for Pet Dogs Moving (Exporting) from the United States to Mexico (179.78 KB)
  - **This document is to be issued directly by the USDA-accredited veterinarian and does *not* require APHIS endorsement.**
  - This HRZ only applies to domestic dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*).

Cats

Regarding New World screwworm (NWS), there is **no change** to requirements for pet cats. A health certificate or NWS inspection document is **not** required for pet cats to enter into Mexico. Cats may be taken to the border without health certificate documentation; they will be inspected by SENASICA upon arrival. **Do not** add cats to the dog or bird inspection forms, as this will render those documents invalid. Please follow the guidance below.

Requirements for Cats Originating In and Proceeding From the United States to Mexico

(SENASICA HRZ Combinacion number 013-08-504-USA-USA)

1. Upon entering Mexico with your pet in a clean carrier, you must proceed to the Agricultural and Livestock Health Inspection Office (OISA) to contact official or authorized SENASICA personnel. They will verify that the animal:
   - Shows no signs of infectious-contagious diseases,
   - Is free of ectoparasites,* and
   - Has no fresh or healing wounds.

* If ectoparasites are detected during the physical inspection, the user must contact a veterinarian of their choice to administer effective treatment. If ticks are detected, official or

authorized SENASICA personnel will take a sample of the ectoparasite(s) for diagnosis at the official laboratory and verify the removal of all specimens found on the pet. The pet will be held at the Agricultural and Livestock Health Inspection Office (OISA) until it is confirmed that the specimens are not exotic to Mexico or subject to a specific control campaign; otherwise, SENASICA, through the General Directorate of Animal Health, will determine the measures to be applied. Any resulting costs shall be borne by the importer.

Other requirements to be met at the Agricultural and Livestock Health Inspection Office (OISA) upon presentation of the shipment:

2. Compliance with the provisions of this document does not exempt the importer from presenting documents or fulfilling formalities and/or procedures required by other authorities.
3. If the carrier is presented dirty and/or contains disposable bedding (puppy pads, newspaper, sawdust, rags); toys; or food items, disinfection procedures will be applied and all contents will be removed for proper destruction.
4. Only the portion of balanced pet food intended for the day of arrival is permitted for entry.

This HRZ only applies to domestic cats (*Felis catus*).

Birds

Mexico has banned the importation of live birds originating from and transiting through States with a detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in commercial poultry. Some States with detections may be eligible for export from counties free of HPAI. To confirm a State status for HPAI in commercial poultry, check with APHIS Veterinary Export Trade Services.

Effective August 3, 2026, Mexico has allowed pet bird travel to resume according to the following requirements:

- **All pet birds** traveling (exporting) from the United States to Mexico must be accompanied by an NWS Inspection Addendum for Pet Birds Moving (Exporting) from the United States to Mexico **,** completed and signed by a **USDA-**

accredited veterinarian within 5 days prior to entry into Mexico.

- This addendum is required **in addition** to the Veterinary Health Certificate for Export of Pet Birds from the United States of America to Mexico, which must be issued by a USDA-accredited veterinarian **and receive APHIS endorsement** prior to travel.

Health certificates may be submitted by the USDA-accredited veterinarian online through the Veterinary Export Health Certificate System (VEHCS); APHIS digital signature is accepted for pet birds to Mexico.

Important Instructions for Preparing Health Certificates When Traveling With Your Pet From the United States to Mexico

The health certificate must:

- Be comprised of the health certificate document linked to the blue “international health certificate” button below. APHIS digital signature is accepted for this certificate and species.
- Include the number of the physical seal that will be applied the bird’s container by the USDA-accredited veterinarian directly prior to departure.
- Be typewritten or completed using a word processor or computer. Documents with **handwritten information will be rejected.**
- The number of the health certificate must also be typewritten or in a word processor or computer.
- Except for the abbreviations in the Consignor, Consignee, and Accredited Veterinarian and endorsing VMO fields, the health certificate must not contain abbreviations. This includes, but is not limited to:
    - Dates—January" is accepted while "Jan" is not.
    - States—Must be the entire word and not the two-letter abbreviation.
    - Ages—"Months" or "Year" is accepted while "yrs" and "mos" are not.
- All health certificates must be printed single-sided. Mexico will not accept double-sided printouts.
- Mexico will not accept handmade corrections, erasures, lineouts, or crossouts.

Other Requirements

Due to the presence of New World screwworm (NWS; *Cochliomyia hominivorax*) in the United States, the importer must present the original NWS Inspection Addendum for Pet Birds Moving (Exporting) from the United States to Mexico , issued no more than 5 days prior, which must reference the Official Sanitary Certificate number. This provision entered into force on August 3, 2026.

- The phytosanitary and zoosanitary inspection officer shall conduct a document review and a full physical inspection of the shipment.
- Compliance with the provisions of this document does not exempt the importer from submitting documents or fulfilling formalities and/or procedures required by other authorities.
- The importer must state the destination in writing and under penalty of perjury.
- Upon inspection, the bird shall be identified by a leg ring/band or by a physical description.
- If unhealed wounds are detected upon arrival in Mexico, they must be treated with a topical larvicide; the costs incurred for this operation shall be borne by the importer.
- The importer must notify the General Directorate of Animal Health (DGSA)—by calling 018007512100 or 55-5905-1000, ext. 51242 or 51236—of any illness or death that occurs. The DGSA shall issue the appropriate sanitary measures; all costs incurred for this operation shall be borne by the importer/owner. While the animals are held in quarantine facilities, additional tests, inspections, and treatments may be performed at the discretion of the official DGSA veterinarian.
- Shipment and documentation must comply with the provisions set forth in Articles 24 and 32 and the applicable subsections of Article 89 of the Federal Animal Health Law.
- The birds shall not be moved from the destination specified in the waybill for the following 30 days—a condition subject to verification by the Secretariat; furthermore, additional tests, inspections, and treatments may be conducted at the discretion of the official veterinarian from the General Directorate of Animal Health (DGSA).
- Domestic transport must comply with the requirements established in NOM-024-ZOO-1995 (Zoosanitary specifications and characteristics for the transport of animals, their products and by-products, and chemical, pharmaceutical, biological, and food products for animal use or consumption) and NOM-051-

ZOO-1995 (Humane treatment during animal transport).

Veterinary Health Certificate for Export of Pet Birds From the United States of America to Mexico

NWS Inspection Addendum for Pet Birds Moving (Exporting) From the United States to Mexico

Chinchillas

Important Instructions for Preparing Health Certificates When Traveling With Your Pet From the United States to Mexico

The health certificate must:

- Be typewritten or completed using a word processor or computer. **Handwritten information will be rejected.**
- The number of the health certificate must be also typewritten or in a word processor or computer.
- Except for the abbreviations in the Consignor, Consignee, and Accredited Veterinarian and endorsing VMO fields, the health certificate must not contain abbreviations. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - Dates—January" is accepted while "Jan" is not.
  - States—Must be the entire word and not the two-letter abbreviation.
  - Ages—"Months" or "Years" is accepted "mos" and "yrs" are not.
- All health certificates must be printed single-sided. Mexico will not accept double-sided printouts.
- Mexico will not accept handmade corrections, erasures, lineouts, or crossouts.

Health certificates may be submitted by the USDA-accredited veterinarian online through the Veterinary Export Health Certificate System (VEHCS); however, the APHIS Veterinary Medical Officer's ink (wet) signature with the application of the APHIS-embossed seal must appear on the health final certificate. To accomplish this, certificates received by APHIS through the VEHCS system will be printed and

endorsed in our offices, and the hard copy will be returned when complete. This APHIS-endorsed paper copy must accompany the shipment.

International Health Certificate

Ferrets

Due to the detection of New World screwworm (NWS, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*) in the United States, Mexico is **prohibiting exports** of pet and commercial ferrets from **all U.S. States.**

Health certificates may be submitted by the USDA-accredited veterinarian online through the Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS); however, the APHIS Veterinary Medical Officer's ink (wet) signature with the application of the APHIS-embossed seal must appear on the health final certificate. To accomplish this, certificates received by APHIS through the VEHCS system will be printed and endorsed in our offices, and the hard copy will be returned when complete. This APHIS-endorsed paper copy must accompany the shipment.

Important Instructions for Preparing Health Certificates When Traveling With Your Pet From the United States to Mexico

The health certificate must:

- Be typewritten or completed using a word processor or computer. **Handwritten information will be rejected.**
- The number of the health certificate must be also typewritten or in a word processor or computer.
- Except for the abbreviations in the Consignor, Consignee, and Accredited Veterinarian and endorsing VMO fields, the health certificate must not contain abbreviations. This includes, but is not limited to:
    - Dates—January" is accepted while "Jan" is not.
    - States—Must be the entire word and not the two-letter abbreviation
    - Ages—"Months" or "Years" is accepted while "mos" and "yrs" are not.
- All health certificates must be printed single-sided. Mexico will not accept double-sided printouts.

- Mexico will not accept handmade corrections, erasures, lineouts, or crossouts.

International Health Certificate

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

Mexico will not allow entry of non-research rabbits (including pet rabbits) from the United States until further notice. This restriction has been in place since April 23, 2010, due to a report of rabbit hemorrhagic disease in the State of Minnesota.

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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