Pet Travel From the United States to Panama

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.

Expand All

Dogs

A health certificate is required to take your dog from the United States into Panama. The health certificate must be signed by a USDA-accredited veterinarian and endorsed by APHIS.

After the pet's health certificate is issued by a USDA-accredited veterinarian and endorsed by APHIS, it will need to be stamped and signed by a Panamanian diplomatic office (consulate or embassy) in the United States prior to travel.

- If you live in a State that does not have a Panamanian diplomatic office in it, the health certificate can be signed (apostilled/legalized) by the Office of Authentications, Bureau of Consular Affairs (U.S. Department of State) located in Washington, D.C. Only the Office of Authentications in Washington, D.C., can issue apostilles. For more information, visit their website at Preparing Your Document for an Apostille Certificate.

Note: Effective 12/31/2020, Panama has temporarily waived the apostille requirement. The requirement for post-APHIS endorsement stamp and signature by a Panamanian diplomatic office/consulate still remains a condition of travel.

The owner must notify Panama at least 3 days before the arrival of the pet by completing the "Home Quarantine Request" that can be downloaded from www.minsa.gob.pa.

- This notification must be sent via email to cam@minsa.gob.pa. In the email, you will need to provide a scanned copy of your pet's health certificate as well as information related to your pet's date of arrival, time, flight number, and airline.

The requirements for traveling with your pet are described in the applicable health certificate(s). 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 From the United States to Panama (204.23 KB) (June 2025)

Note: Panama has updated their import regulations to require that dogs, cats, and ferrets be vaccinated against rabies from 3 months of age and that at least 30 days have passed since the first rabies vaccination. Therefore, animals under 4 months of age are not allowed into the country.

Cats

A health certificate is required to take your cat from the United States into Panama. The health certificate must be signed by a USDA-accredited veterinarian and endorsed by APHIS.

After the pet's health certificate is issued by a USDA-accredited veterinarian and endorsed by APHIS, it will need to be stamped and signed by a Panamanian diplomatic office (consulate or embassy) in the United States prior to travel.

- If you live in a State that does not have a Panamanian diplomatic office in it, the health certificate can be signed (apostilled/legalized) by the Office of Authentications, Bureau of Consular Affairs (U.S. Department of State) located in Washington, D.C. Only the Office of Authentications in Washington, D.C., can issue apostilles. For more information, visit their website at Preparing Your Document for an Apostille Certificate.

Note: Effective 12/31/2020, Panama has temporarily waived the apostille requirement. The requirement for post-APHIS endorsement stamp and signature by a Panamanian diplomatic office/consulate still remains a condition of travel.

The owner must notify Panama at least 3 days before the arrival of the pet by completing the "Home Quarantine Request" that can be downloaded from www.minsa.gob.pa.

- This notification must be sent via email to cam@minsa.gob.pa. In the email, you will need to provide a scanned copy of your pet's health certificate as well as information related to your pet's date of arrival, time, flight number, and

airline.

The requirements for traveling with your pet are described in the applicable health certificate(s). 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 Cats From the United States to Panama (201.65 KB) (June 2025)

Note: Panama has updated their import regulations to require that dogs, cats, and ferrets be vaccinated against rabies from 3 months of age and that at least 30 days have passed since the first rabies vaccination. Therefore, animals under 4 months of age are not allowed into the country.

Ferrets

A health certificate is required to take your ferret from the United States into Panama. The health certificate must be signed by a USDA-accredited veterinarian and endorsed by APHIS.

After the pet's health certificate is issued by a USDA-accredited veterinarian and endorsed by APHIS, it will need to be stamped and signed by a Panamanian diplomatic office (consulate or embassy) in the United States prior to travel.

- If you live in a State that does not have a Panamanian diplomatic office in it, the health certificate can be signed (apostilled/legalized) by the Office of Authentications, Bureau of Consular Affairs (U.S. Department of State) located in Washington, D.C. Only the Office of Authentications in Washington, D.C., can issue apostilles. For more information, visit their website at Preparing Your Document for an Apostille Certificate.

Note: Effective 12/31/2020, Panama has temporarily waived the apostille requirement. The requirement for post-APHIS endorsement stamp and signature by a Panamanian diplomatic office/consulate still remains a condition of travel.

The owner must notify Panama at least 3 days before the arrival of the pet by completing the "Home Quarantine Request" that can be downloaded from

www.minsa.gob.pa.

- This notification must be sent via email to cam@minsa.gob.pa. In the email, you will need to provide a scanned copy of your pet's health certificate as well as information related to your pet's date of arrival, time, flight number, and airline.

The requirements for traveling with your pet are described in the applicable health certificate(s). 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 Ferrets From the United States to Panama (191.57 KB) (June 2025)

Note: Panama has updated their import regulations to require that dogs, cats, and ferrets be vaccinated against rabies from 3 months of age and that at least 30 days have passed since the first rabies vaccination. Therefore, animals under 4 months of age are not allowed into the country.

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