Pet Travel Process Overview

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Preparing to travel from the United States to another country with your pet can be complex and time-consuming. Here, we explain the process from beginning to end.

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Determining the Requirements for Taking a Pet from the United States to Another Country

As soon as you decide to travel, contact a USDA-accredited veterinarian to determine the destination country's requirements, including any necessary vaccinations, tests, or treatments. We recommend creating a schedule to make sure all requirements are met within the specified timeframe.

Every country has its own set of health requirements for pets that may require your pet to get a microchip, specific vaccinations, or undergo certain tests. Use the Pet Owner Worksheet (103.1 KB) to capture the information you need to plan for your pet's trip and complete the process for obtaining a health certificate.

When deciding to travel internationally with your pet, it is important to consider the animal disease and pest statuses of that country, which may negatively impact the

health of your animal. Currently, APHIS considers several countries affected by New World screwworm, a pest that infests warm-blooded animals. Please see the complete list of New World screwworm affected countries on our website, APHIS-Recognized Animal Health Statuses. For more information pertaining to New World screwworm and pet travel, please see New World Screwworm: Veterinary Considerations for Dogs and Cats That Travel Internationally (383.55 KB).

Country Requirements

Country requirements can change frequently. Be sure to verify your destination's requirements every time you plan to travel with your pet. The country requirements pages provide essential information for civilians, military service members, brokers, pet shipping companies, and accredited veterinarians.

Find Your Destination Country Requirements

If your country is not listed in the menu, visit Pet Travel: Unknown Requirements.

Select Destination Country Select Destination Cour ▼ Go

Finding a USDA- Accredited Veterinarian

A USDA-accredited veterinarian must issue all live animal export certificates (including pet health certificates) that are required to be endorsed (co-signed) by USDA. A USDA-accredited veterinarian has completed formal training from the National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) in the State(s) in which they are licensed to practice medicine. Accreditation is State-specific and voluntary (not all veterinarians are accredited).

Find a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian

Getting a Pet Health Certificate Endorsed by USDA

As soon as your accredited veterinarian signs your pet's health certificate, you may have a limited amount of time (e.g., 30 days) to get the certificate endorsed by USDA and travel with your pet before your destination country will no longer accept that health certificate. Make sure you know your destination country's required time frame! The original USDA-endorsed hard copy health certificate must accompany your pet to the destination country.

If the destination country requires a USDA-endorsed (countersigned and embossed/stamped) health certificate, work with your accredited veterinarian to complete, sign, and date the health certificate. The accredited veterinarian should submit the certificate to the USDA Endorsement Office in the Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS) on your behalf (option 1) or provide the paperwork to you to submit to the USDA Endorsement Office (option 2). **You should use option 1 or option 2, but not both.**

Option 1: Use VEHCS to Submit the Health Certificate

Your accredited veterinarian can access VEHCS on your behalf. Your submission must include:

- International health certificate
- Vaccination certificates (if vaccination required by the destination country)
- Test results for laboratory tests (if required by the destination country)
- Import permit (if required by the destination country)
- Payment (See below for fees and how to submit payment)
- Pre-paid express shipping label if USDA APHIS's digital endorsement is not accepted by the destination country (See below for more information)
    - Select **Priority Delivery** (or the fastest available delivery method) to ensure your package is trackable and arrives in a timely manner.

Option 2: Ship Your Health Certificate to USDA

Your submission must include:

- The ORIGINAL International health certificate
- Vaccination certificates (if vaccination required by the destination country)

- Test results for laboratory tests (if required by the destination country)
- Import permit (if required by the destination country)
- Payment (See below for fees and how to submit payment)
- Pre-paid express shipping label (see below for more information)
    - Include The Pet Owners Checklist for Shipping Health Certificate(s) to a USDA Endorsement Office to be sure you have all required paperwork in your shipping package.
    - Select **Priority Delivery** (or the fastest available delivery method) to ensure your package is trackable and arrives in a timely manner.

Give adequate time and proper planning for the endorsement of your health certificate. Incomplete submissions or incorrect information on the health certificates will cause endorsement delays until the USDA-accredited veterinarian or the owner/exporter of the animal can correct the problem.

Endorsement Fees and Payment Options

Endorsement Fees

There are fees for USDA to endorse your health certificate.

View the Cost To Endorse Your Pet's Health Certificate

There is no endorsement fee for **service animals (dogs)** belonging to individuals with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Although USDA APHIS recognizes the importance of all animals in their owners' lives, health certificate endorsement fees apply to emotional support animals and any other animal not officially covered by the ADA.

Payment Options

Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS): For health certificates submitted in VEHCS, your USDA-accredited veterinarian must ensure that payment is provided by either depositing money in the VEHCS account or by providing a

USDA APHIS User Fee Credit Account in the submission.

Shipping the Health Certificate to USDA: For health certificates submitted by express shipping, payment may be made by using the following acceptable methods:

- USDA APHIS User Fee Credit Account
- Credit or Debit Card: For payment of health certificates submitted by overnight shipping, please use the credit card information sheet (90 KB) to provide your credit or debit card information.

Travelers: Please contact your accredited veterinarian if you have questions about the cost of the endorsement of a health certificate, payment method, or if the pet is traveling to multiple countries.

Accredited Veterinarians: If you require assistance, please email your USDA Endorsement Office.

Shipping a Health Certificate to USDA for Endorsement

If your accredited veterinarian provides the signed health certificate to you to send to the USDA Endorsement Office, we strongly recommend sending the paperwork via overnight express service, such as FedEx or UPS, to minimize delays.

Please include the following in your package:

- **A self-addressed pre-paid express return shipping label** (*see instructions below for preparing the shipping label*). We will use the label to return your endorsed health certificate to you.
    - Select **Priority Delivery** (or the fastest available delivery method) to ensure your package is trackable and arrives in a timely manner.
- Be sure you include **all original documents** required by your destination country:
    - **International Health Certificate**
    - **Vaccination certificates** (if vaccinations are required by the destination country)

    - **Test results for laboratory tests** (if tests are required by the destination country)
    - **Import permit** (if a permit is required by the destination country)
- The Pet Owners Checklist for Shipping Health Certificate(s) to a USDA Endorsement Office (249.23 KB) so that we can contact you or your accredited veterinarian if we find a problem with your pet's health certificate. If you provide a phone number, make sure you're able to receive voicemails.
- The Credit Card Information Sheet (90 KB), if you are paying the endorsement fee by credit card.

Preparing the Return Shipping Label

- Put **YOUR name and address in both the TO and FROM** section of the return label. The USDA address **should not appear anywhere** on your return label.
    - If you need to include an envelope size and weight on the label, use 12.5 x 9.5 inches and 1 pound in weight.
    - Your USDA Endorsement Office has shipping envelopes to return your paperwork.
- The return label **must be pre-paid.** We do not accept shipping labels with credit card numbers.
- Use a shipping service that provides a **tracking number**. It is your responsibility to keep a record of the tracking information.
- **UPS Ground, FedEx Ground, or FedEx Home service do not pick up from our offices.** Choosing this type of shipping service label may delay your package’s return to you by one business day.
- Select **Priority Delivery** (or the fastest available delivery method *and includes a Saturday delivery option* where available) to ensure your package is trackable and arrives in a timely manner.
- **If you do not include a return label in your package**, and we are unable to reach you to arrange for another method of return delivery, we will send your package to you via United States Postal Service First Class Mail.

Finishing Any Outstanding Requirements Before Traveling with Your Pet

Once the pet's health certificate has been issued by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian and endorsed by USDA (when required), you must finish any outstanding requirements before you can travel with your pet.

- Some countries allow treatments to be completed after endorsement. For example, tapeworm treatment for dogs traveling to Finland, Ireland, Norway, UK and Malta.
- Some countries require consulate approval or pre-notification.
- Airlines may have different or additional requirements. Check with your airline to determine what requirements they may have, if any.
- Be sure all the required paperwork is completed correctly, and the health certificate(s) are endorsed (if needed). **The original signed or endorsed paperwork must accompany your pet during travel. *Electronic versions* of documents *will not* be accepted by officials of the destination country.**

You are now ready to travel with your pet!

Returning to the United States with Your Pet

Visit Bring Your Pet into the U.S. From a Foreign Country to obtain *detailed and important* information for pets returning to the United States.

Resources

- Pet Owner Worksheet for Obtaining an International Health Certificate for Pets (103.1 KB)
- Pet Owner Checklist for Shipping Health Certificate(s) to a USDA Endorsement Office (249.23 KB)
- Cost to Endorse Your Pet's Health Certificate
- Find an Accredited Veterinarian
- USDA Endorsement Offices

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