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Bring a Pet Dog into the United States

Last Modified:

Rabies Alert

For all dogs imported into the United States, including U.S.-origin dogs returning to the United States:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the primary government authority for dogs imported into the United States. For all questions related to CDC's updated dog import requirements for dogs entering or returning to the United States, contact the CDC at 800-232-4636 or by visiting [CDC-INFO](#). Pet owners and accredited veterinarians with questions on how to complete the CDC "Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination" form may refer to [this resource](#) or contact CDC.

For questions on how to access VEHCS, visit [Using the Veterinary Export Health Certification System \(VEHCS\)](#).

APHIS may also have specific requirements for dogs entering the United States. These requirements are different and separate from the CDC import requirements for dogs.



This page will guide you through the requirements for bringing privately owned, pet dogs into the United States from another country, including U.S. returning dogs.

If you're bringing dogs into the United States for commercial sale or adoption, [additional requirements will apply](#).

Carefully read ALL requirements on this page.

- Failure to meet these import requirements will result in problems upon arrival in the United States, and the pet may be refused entry.
- Multiple U.S. agencies regulate pets imported into the United States. It's important that you notify and coordinate with all responsible Government agencies.

APHIS Veterinary Services Requirements

Screwworm

Dogs traveling from countries or regions where [screwworm](#) is known to exist may enter the United States if they're accompanied by a certificate signed by a full-time salaried veterinary official of the region of origin (official government veterinarian) stating:

- The dog has been inspected for screwworm within 5 days before shipment to the United States, and
- The dog is either free from screwworm, OR
- The dog was infested with screwworm, held in quarantine, and treated until free from screwworm, before leaving the region.

[Find out which countries are affected by screwworm](#)

Foot-and-Mouth Disease

Dogs coming from a country that is affected by [foot-and-mouth disease](#) must meet the following requirements:

- Their fur and bedding must be free of excessive dirt, hay, or straw.
- The dog should be bathed as soon as it reaches its destination and kept separate from all livestock for 5 days after entering the United States.

[Find out which countries are affected by foot-and-mouth disease](#)

Additional Considerations for Dogs Used in Livestock Handling

Dogs used in livestock handling that are imported from any part of the world—except Canada, Mexico, and certain regions of Central America and the West Indies—should have no evidence of tapeworm infection.

Other Federal Requirements

Rabies

The CDC has extended its temporary suspension on importing dogs from high-risk rabies countries through July 31, 2024. For more information, read the "Rabies Alert"

notice at the top of this page or visit the [CDC](#).

Dogs for Commercial Sale or Adoption

Dogs being imported into the United States for commercial sale or adoption must meet [additional requirements](#). If you have questions about these requirements or need help applying for an import permit, [contact APHIS Animal Care](#).

U.S. State and Territory Requirements

Domestic movement requirements are set by the receiving State or Territory.

Visit the [National Association of State Departments of Agriculture](#) to find your destination's agriculture department and check its website for requirements.

For questions or clarification on any of the requirements, contact the [State or Territorial veterinarian's office](#).

Airline Requirements

Check with your airline to determine whether they have any additional requirements.

Need Help?

For general questions related to the import of a live animal:

Live Animal Import and Export

Email: laie@usda.gov

Phone: [301-851-3300](tel:301-851-3300)

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