

Export of U.S. Non Ruminant Rawhide Chews and Canned, Retorted Pet Food for Cats and Dogs to Australia

General Instructions:

The following non-ruminant (other than bovine dairy) products may be exported to Australia without an accompanying Australian import permit: rawhide chews, rawhide chews with color added, and canned/retorted pet food. APHIS Veterinary Services export certification attesting to Australia's conditions of import is required. APHIS Veterinary Services inspection and approval of pet food manufacturing facilities remains a requirement for export of pet food and pet chews to Australia. Please refer to the conditions of import below.

Conditions of Import:

RAWHIDE CHEWS WITH NO COLOR ADDED

- a. Documents must be provided with each consignment which:
 1. Identify the consignment (if non-personal) e.g. entry number
 2. Identify all goods being imported as part of this consignment e.g. invoice or waybill or importer's manifest
 3. Describe the goods being imported (where not clear).

e.g. 1: Product XPet = Pet chew derived from bison milk

e.g. 2: Product RawX = Rawhide derived from porcine skin

e.g. 3: XCan = Canned pet food containing poultry and bovine whey

- b. The rawhide dog chews must be treated with a lime solution, be made from hide or skin, and not contain ear tissue or tissue containing cartilage.

To demonstrate compliance with this requirement, you must present the following on an [official government veterinary certificate](#) or [Government-endorsed Manufacturer's Declaration](#)*:

1. A statement that the product has been soaked in a lime solution of pH 14 for not less than 8 hours.
2. A statement that the final product contains no ingredients other than hide/skin.
3. A statement that the product is made from hide/skin tissue only and does not contain ear tissue or other tissue containing cartilage.

*To request endorsement of an export certificate for Australia that includes a Manufacturer's Declaration, please refer to the section within this document entitled "Manufacturer's Declaration Instructions."

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RAWHIDE CHEWS CONTAINING ADDED COLOR

- a. Documents must be provided with each consignment which:
 1. Identify the consignment (if non-personal) e.g. entry number
 2. Identify all goods being imported as part of this consignment e.g. invoice or waybill or importer's manifest
 3. Describe the goods being imported (where not clear).

e.g. 1: Product XPet = Pet chew derived from bison milk

e.g. 2: Product RawX = Rawhide derived from porcine skin

e.g. 3: XCan = Canned pet food containing poultry and bovine whey

- b. The rawhide dog chews must be treated with a lime solution and be made from hide/skin and not contain ear tissue or tissue containing cartilage.

To demonstrate compliance with this requirement you must present the following on an [official government veterinary certificate](#) or [Government-endorsed Manufacturer's Declaration](#)*:

1. A statement that the product has been soaked in a lime solution of pH 14 for not less than 8 hours.
2. A statement that the final product contains no ingredients other than hide/skin.
3. A statement that the product is made from hide/skin tissue only and does not contain ear tissue or other tissue containing cartilage.
4. A statement that the product contains no additional ingredients other than added color.

*To request endorsement of an export certificate for Australia that includes a Manufacturer's Declaration, please refer to the section within this document entitled "Manufacturer's Declaration Instructions."

CANNED/RETORTED PET FOOD FOR DOGS AND CATS

- a. Documents must be provided with each consignment which:
 1. Identify the consignment (if non-personal) e.g. entry number
 2. Identify all goods being imported as part of this consignment e.g. invoice or waybill or importer's manifest
 3. Describe the goods being imported (where not clear).

e.g. 1: Product XPet = Pet chew derived from bison milk

e.g. 2: Product RawX = Rawhide derived from porcine skin

e.g. 3: XCan = Canned pet food containing poultry and bovine whey

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- b. These conditions allow for the import of pet food products that comply with the following:
1. The pet food has been retorted and during the retort process the food was heated to a minimum core temperature of 100°C obtaining an F₀ value of at least 2.8.
 2. The pet food does not contain any ingredients derived from ruminants (e.g. cows, sheep, goats, deer) other than bovine dairy derived ingredients.
 3. The pet food is shelf stable and does not require refrigeration.
 4. The pet food is imported in the hermetically sealed container (e.g. can, retort pouch) in which it was retorted.
 5. Each hermetically sealed container is stamped or embossed in indelible ink with the identification number of the establishment where the pet food was processed and the batch code number.
 6. The pet food is for the consumption of dogs and/or cats only and has been labelled accordingly prior to importation.
- c. The product must be accompanied by commercial documentation providing a list of trade names of products in the consignment.

To demonstrate compliance with this requirement, a list of the trade names of products in the consignment must be provided on a [packing list](#), [supplier's declaration](#), [exporter's declaration](#), [export certificate](#), [commercial invoice](#), [Manufacturer's Declaration](#) and/or [Bill of Lading](#) upon arrival in Australia.

If the list of trade names will be provided on a document other than the export certificate, that document does not need to be presented to APHIS Veterinary Services along with the certificate for endorsement.

- d. The country of manufacture must certify the retort process, the exclusion of ruminant derived ingredients and health status of any animals from which ingredients were derived.

To demonstrate compliance with this requirement you must present the following on an official government veterinary certificate:

1. The following statement: The certified product was produced at [*insert name and address of manufacturing facility*], a facility inspected and approved by USDA APHIS for the export of pet food to Australia.
2. A statement that the pet food has been retorted in a hermetically sealed container and during the retort process was heated to a minimum core temperature of 100°C, obtaining a F₀ value of at least 2.8.
3. A statement that the pet food does not contain any ingredients derived from ruminants (other than bovine dairy derived ingredients).
4. A statement that all animal material (other than dairy, avian or fish material, or material of Australian or New Zealand origin) was derived from animals that were subjected to ante- and/or post-mortem inspection and were found to be free from contagious and infectious disease.
5. For all avian material (other than egg or egg products), a statement that the material was derived from animals that were subjected to ante- and/or post-mortem inspection and were found to be free from contagious and infectious disease.

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Manufacturer's Declaration Instructions:

Manufacturers/exporters must provide a Manufacturer's Declaration with the applicable statements as noted above to the [pertinent VS Service Center](#) with an original signature. The color ink used for the signature must not be the same color as the text of the document. Electronic signatures are not acceptable. The VS Service Center will keep the original on file and copy the Manufacturer Declaration onto security paper.

The Manufacturer's Declaration may be submitted on company letterhead stationery. This will meet Australia's requirement for the manufacturer's official seal or trademark to appear on the document.

Prior to export, exporters must also obtain an APHIS-endorsed VS Form 16-4 export certificate with the following declaration:

"After investigation, I have no reason to doubt the truth of the Manufacturer's Declaration."