

USDA APHIS VS  
SERVICE CENTER WEST COAST  
ENDORSEMENT OFFICES

**Sacramento, CA Office**  
10365 Old Placerville Rd., Suite 210  
Sacramento, CA 95827  
[sacanimalexport@usda.gov](mailto:sacanimalexport@usda.gov)  
916-854-3960

**Tumwater, WA Office**  
1550 Irving Street SW, Suite 100  
Tumwater, WA 98512  
[wa.export.animals@usda.gov](mailto:wa.export.animals@usda.gov)  
360-753-9430

**Los Angeles Port Office**  
222 Kansas St.  
El Segundo, CA 90245  
[vspslax@usda.gov](mailto:vspslax@usda.gov)  
310-955-3311

**San Francisco Port Office**  
[sfo.port.services@usda.gov](mailto:sfo.port.services@usda.gov)  
650-876-9358

**Honolulu Port Office**  
[HI.Import.Export.Services@usda.gov](mailto:HI.Import.Export.Services@usda.gov)  
808-838-2854

**Anchorage Port Office**  
[alaska.import.export@usda.gov](mailto:alaska.import.export@usda.gov)  
907-229-7656

\*\*\*

### USDA APHIS Quick Links:

- \* [Pet Travel Website \(PTW\)](#)
- \* [Helpful References for Pet Travel](#)
- \* [International Live Animal Export Regulations \(IREGs - for non-pets\)](#)
- \* [VEHCS Help Page](#)
- \* [Equine Import & Export](#)

\*\*\*

### In-Person Endorsements

Our endorsement offices were closed to the public and in-person and drop-off endorsement services were discontinued because of COVID. Our offices will continue indefinitely to remain closed to the public in favor of VEHCS. VEHCS allows us to provide superior customer service by giving us the flexibility to move work to other offices or obtain remote endorsement assistance from other offices during workload surges or staffing challenges. VEHCS also facilitates more rapid corrections when needed, saves customers the cost of overnight shipping of documents to our offices (as well as return for many countries), and supports the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980. Paper certificates are still accepted, but they must be mailed to our offices. Please check with your endorsement office, as some offices do not accept mail-in submissions.

# International Export Newsletter for USDA Accredited Veterinarians



July 2022

## Accredited Veterinarian Partners,

We want to let you know about some significant changes, starting with our name, which has been changed from Service Center, Sacramento to Service Center West Coast. We provide endorsement support for the following states/territories: Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, the Northern Mariana Islands, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

A few reminders about live animal certificates and documentation:

- **Accredited veterinarians issue, APHIS endorses health certificates** – the ‘date of issue’ is the date you sign the certificate.
- **Animal identification**
  - ◇ Note microchips, ID bands, breeds, markings consistently across documents.
- **Horses to Canada**
  - ◇ Use the sample date for your Coggins in the EIA test date field, not the date of receipt by the lab or the date reported.
- **Poultry certificates**
  - ◇ Be mindful of certificate statements regarding HPAI freedom.
  - ◇ Keep a watch for changes in HPAI status by State and county.
- **EU and UK small animal health certificates:**
  - ◇ **For animals traveling with owners or within 5 days of owner’s travel, you may issue up to 30 days before the animal’s arrival.** Examine early!
  - ◇ APHIS must endorse within 10 days of arrival in the importing county.
  - ◇ First valid Rabies vaccination = first following microchip implantation or a lapse in vaccination
    - \* Validity period: begins 21 days after administration, revaccination due within one year if no documentation of prior vaccination is available – after that, three year validity is accepted.
    - \* Microchip numbers should always be noted on Rabies certificates, and original ink signatures are preferred (required for the UK).
- **VEHCS:**
  - ◇ One health certificate per submission.
  - ◇ Digitally endorsed certificates are not like e-tickets; a printed paper copy of the certificate must accompany the animal(s).
  - ◇ Upload enough associated documents to demonstrate the validity of your certification statements, but not the whole medical record!
  - ◇ Upload sufficient funds for payment. Common charges are \$38 when no tests are reviewed, \$121 for one animal with 1-2 tests, \$150 for 3-6, \$173 for 7+. Reach out to your endorsement office to confirm fees.
  - ◇ Please allow several *business* days for your certificates to be reviewed/returned and endorsed over peak travel times (summer months and winter holiday season).
  - ◇ Certificates submitted with less than one working day’s time to shipment may not be completed in time and may be subject to overtime charges to complete.
  - ◇ The endorsement office is unable to provide status updates on certificates by phone or email due to workload. Please check your VEHCS account for status (“Reviewed” means the office has viewed and is working on your certificate, “Completed” means it has been endorsed, “Returned” means we need a correction from you).
- **Shipping labels**
  - ◇ Prepaid return overnight shipping labels must be purchased directly through the courier service (e.g. FedEx, UPS, Priority USPS) and will only be accepted if the sender address box shows the address of pet owner or veterinary clinic. Return shipping labels cannot show any connection to USDA or any USDA employee.