



# International Pet Bird Travel: Bringing Pet Birds Back to the U.S.



## Avoid Problems with Your Return; Know the U.S. Re-Entry Import Pet Bird Requirements

To prevent the spread of avian diseases, birds coming into the United States (U.S.) are subject to quarantine. Pet birds meeting certain criteria may undergo this quarantine at home. First, your birds must be of U.S. origin, meaning born or purchased in the U.S. Second, your bird must not have traveled to or through

(transited) a country affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Finally, your pet bird must meet all other import requirements outlined in this document. Plan ahead and follow these steps to bring your pet bird back to the U.S. from a foreign country other than Canada or Mexico.

### Step 1. Locate a copy of your pet bird's U.S. Origin Health Certificate and CITES document

Before you can return to the U.S. with your pet bird, you must have in your possession a photocopy of your bird's U.S. Origin Health Certificate, which would have been issued PRIOR to departure from the U.S., and/or a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services' Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) document (if applicable).

Note: If your bird is a CITES species, or if you are not sure, contact the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services for additional entry requirements, 1-800-358-2104 • <http://www.fws.gov>.

### Step 2. Request an Import Permit for your pet bird

Prior to bringing your pet bird back to the U.S., you must contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to request an Import Permit. The Import Permit application web page is located here:

APHIS eFile (<https://efile.aphis.usda.gov/s/>)

At this site you will find step-by-step instructions on the import application and fees and payment options for processing the application. The minimum estimated fees for pet bird importation are \$650. You can expect to receive your permit approximately 7-10 business days after submitting your application.

### Step 3. Acquire a veterinary health certificate

Within 30 days before returning to the U.S. with your pet bird, you need to request a health certificate from the country you are leaving.

The health certificate must be signed by an official veterinarian of that country and you must obtain the original certificate (not a copy).



### Step 4. Contact the VS Port Veterinarian prior to U.S. arrival

Before you begin your trip back to the U.S., be sure to contact the VS Port Veterinarian to confirm your arrival date and time. Contact information for this office is located on your USDA Import Permit. If you anticipate arriving outside normal business hours, you may incur additional fees.

### Step 5. Meet with the VS Port Veterinarian on arrival at the port of entry

When you arrive in the U.S. with your pet bird, you must have these documents with you:

1. U.S. Origin Health Certificate (see step 1)
2. CITES document (if needed)
3. USDA Import Permit (see step 2)
4. Original veterinary health certificate (see step 3)

A VS Port Veterinarian must examine and test all pet birds returning to the U.S. for avian influenza and exotic Newcastle disease. USDA testing fees apply.

### Step 6. Quarantine your pet bird at home for 30 days

After your pet bird is examined by the VS Port Veterinarian, it can go home with you. However, it must be kept inside, apart from all other birds and poultry, for a minimum of 30 days. These are mandatory home quarantine requirements. A VS veterinarian will test your bird again approximately 14 days after arrival in the U.S. and look for physical signs of illness.

### Step 7. Receive your written notification of release from home quarantine

If all test results are negative, after 30 days you will receive written notification from VS releasing your pet bird from home quarantine. After that notification, your bird can move freely anywhere in the U.S. If your bird does not have negative test results, it will be refused entry to the U.S.