

Importing domestic dog/ canine semen, embryos and other germplasm not regulated by USDA APHIS VS (used for breeding purposes)

Germplasm includes semen, embryos, oocytes and tissue for cloning.

USDA APHIS regulates these germplasm shipments and requires import permits to allow them entry in the United States:

1. Cattle, sheep, goats and other ruminants;
2. Horses, donkeys, asses, zebras and other equids;
3. Swine and related suids;
4. Birds and poultry.



USDA APHIS does not require import permits for these categories of germplasm to be allowed in the United States:

1. Dog/ canine germplasm imported for breeding purposes,
2. Unregulated germplasm to be used for breeding purposes that is from certain unusual regulated species such as rhinos or elephants;
3. Germplasm from non-regulated species used for breeding purposes (such as exotic carnivores, cats, rodents, rabbits).

Recommendation: a valid health certificate issued by an accredited or licensed veterinarian from the exporting country should accompany shipments of non-regulated germplasm for breeding purposes (those not requiring an import permit). This document must state the species of origin of this germplasm to validate that the semen is not sourced from any regulated species listed above.

The species of origin information should also be documented on any of the following: manifests, invoices, foreign producer/shipper statements on letterhead or other shipping documents. The documentation should be available for review on shipment arrival at the U.S. port of entry and not be placed inside the shipping container.

We further recommend that you provide a copy of this guideline to your foreign producer/shipper.

Make sure the import meets the destination state requirements: [State Regulations and Import Requirements](#).

For questions, please contact:

USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services (VS)
National Import Export Services (NIES)
4700 River Road Unit 39
Riverdale, MD 20737
Phone (301)851-3300, Option 2
VS.Live.Animals.Import.Permits@aphis.usda.gov



Germplasm containers and tanks originating from Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) affected regions should be disinfected at the airport in the exporting country prior to departure and again after arriving in the United States. Specific country information may be found using this link: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions>.

Other agencies, including the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), and individual states ([State Regulations and Import Requirements](#)) may have additional requirements for importing semen of some species. Information may be found at the listed hyperlinks.

Canine semen imported for research use: Please refer to this webpage for additional information <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/import-live-animals/no-import-permit-req>.