

Guidance information regarding the use of the  
**“Veterinary Health Certificate in Respect of Dogs  
 For Export to the Republic of South Africa”**  
 For U.S. origin dogs

When South Africa issues the import permit, they will provide to the owner a copy of the required model “Veterinary Health Certificate in Respect of Dogs for Export to the Republic of South Africa” [Document Reference: **IMP. DOG. GEN 05/22 CG**] at that time. Any owner seeking a copy of the required health certificate should inquire with the DAFF Permit Office [VetPermits@daff.gov.za](mailto:VetPermits@daff.gov.za)

The following is **not** to be used as a health certificate for export. Rather, once you have been issued an import permit, and have the model certificate in hand, the following may be used as *guidance information* for completing the “Veterinary Health Certificate in Respect of Dogs for Export to the Republic of South Africa” [Document Reference: **IMP. DOG. GEN 05/22 CG**], for U.S.-origin dogs.

APHIS endorsement of the health certificate is required after it has been issued by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian. Final veterinary inspection, health certificate issuance, and certificate endorsement must occur **within 10 days** of the pet's travel.

**Veterinary Health Certificate in Respect of Dogs for Export to the Republic of South Africa**

**ISSUING AUTHORITY:** *USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services*

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** *United States of America*

**A. DESCRIPTION:**

1. *Complete the two tables under item 1. The dog listed in row 1 of the first table must be recorded in row 1 of the second table, and so on. **Every dog MUST have a microchip.***
2. **South African Veterinary Import Permit no:** *A **veterinary import permit is required for ALL dogs and cats traveling to South Africa.** Veterinary import permit applications and further information can be found on the Republic of South Africa's website at <http://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/services/imports>. The completed veterinary import permit applications can be sent to the Permit Office at [VetPermits@daff.gov.za](mailto:VetPermits@daff.gov.za)*
3. **Origin of animal(s)** *This section is self-explanatory*
4. **Destination of animal(s)** *This section is self-explanatory if South Africa is the final destination. If the pet using this certificate to transit South Africa, their final destination information should be included in item 4.3.*

**B. HEALTH ATTESTATION** *To be completed by your private USDA Accredited Veterinarian (to find out if your pet's veterinarian is accredited by the USDA, please email your inquiry to your local VS-NVAP Coordinator, including the doctor's first & last name, and the name and city & state of their practice). Your USDA Accredited Veterinarian's name should be **PRINTED** on the first line, as they are attesting that statements 1, 2, 3, 7, & 8 are correct.*

4. Rabies Vaccination Information: *Refer to "Note 1" on page 4 of the health certificate. The line numbers of the rabies vaccination chart should correspond with the line numbers in the tables on first page, under item A.1. "Description." Any U.S. licensed rabies vaccine product is acceptable for use. Rabies vaccination **must** be within 12 months of export, and more than 30 days prior to export in the case of primary rabies vaccination (30 day waiting period does not apply if the booster was administered before the previous rabies vaccination expired). All columns of the table must be completed and must match the information provided on the rabies certificate. The rabies certificate must be presented to the APHIS office at the time of certificate endorsement **AND** the original or a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate **must** accompany the health certificate.*
5. Required Test Chart: ***ALL** tests must be performed within 30 days of import (no exceptions are permitted without a dispensation issued by South Africa). All test results must be **NEGATIVE**; any dog testing **POSITIVE** for any of the five mentioned diseases will not be eligible for export to South Africa. Sample collection dates must be recorded on all laboratory reports. All tests must be completed at an "officially approved laboratory" located in the United States, per the South African veterinary health certificate requirements, with the exception of testing for *T. evansi*, which **must** be completed at an OIE Reference Laboratory approved for this disease. **ONLY the T. evansi test samples should be sent to OIE Reference Laboratories.** Detailed information on *T. evansi* sample submission can be found on the [APHIS Pet Travel Website](#).*

*The animal's microchip number **MUST** be recorded accurately on **ALL** laboratory reports. This is a mandatory requirement of South Africa.*

***ONLY** the following test methods are allowed as outlined below:*

5.1 *Brucella canis*: Serum agglutination **OR** Rapid slide agglutination test

5.2 *Trypanosoma evansi*: **BOTH** Card agglutination test\* **AND** Giemsa blood smear\*

*\*Both tests **MUST** be performed at an OIE Reference Laboratory*

5.3 *Babesia gibsoni*: **TWO** tests:

- a. **EITHER** Immunofluorescence antibody test **OR** ELISA using the BgTRAP antigen; **AND**
- b. **EITHER** Giemsa blood smear **OR** Real-time PCR

5.4 *Dirofilaria immitis*: Microfilarial filtration test (*this is the **ONLY** acceptable test method*)

5.5 *Leishmaniosis*: Indirect fluorescent antibody test **OR** ELISA test **OR** Direct agglutination test **OR** Western blot/membrane immunoassay

***ANY DEVIATION FROM THIS PRESCRIBED TESTING METHOD OR TIMEFRAME WOULD REQUIRE A DISPENSATION ISSUED BY SOUTH AFRICA.** APHIS has been informed that any dog that arrives in South Africa "with the test results that do NOT comply with South African requirements stands a very high chance of being returned to the country of origin or euthanized. Non-compliant animals will not be brought into quarantine as was done in the past." **The U.S. government takes this warning very seriously.***

**A copy of all laboratory reports must accompany veterinary health certificate**

## 6. Required Parasite Treatments

6.1 Dirofilaria immitis: from the date of negative testing, until export, at the required intervals: *you are required to provide the date(s) of administration of D. immitis preventative (a.k.a. heartworm) medication **after** a negative test result for Dirofilaria has been received, and **before** the date of health certificate issuance. There should be **at least ONE treatment date listed** in section 6.1 of the certificate **AFTER** the test result of the negative heartworm test was received and **BEFORE** (or on the same day as) the USDA Accredited Veterinarian signs the health certificate (unless using ProHeart SR-12 injectable annually).*

6.2 Leishmania and Babesia gibsoni: the animals must be treated with an effective acaricide, and with insect repellent, registered in South Africa within 30 days before departure. *Any acaricide and insect repellent product licensed for use in the United States for the prevention of insect disease vectors, namely **ticks** and **flies**, may be used. This can be administered as a combination product (Ex: **K9 Advantix II**) or individually (Ex: both a **permethrin** product **and** an **imidacloprid** product). The date(s) of application, product names and dosages must be recorded in Item 6.2 of the certificate **PRIOR TO** submitting the certificate for APHIS endorsement.*

**Note:** *If a product is designed for **ticks** but not **flies**, an additional product may also be used for flies, but please note drug interactions with the Heartworm preventative treatment to avoid overdose.*

**OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN:** *This section is to be completed by the USDA Accredited Veterinarian, then endorsed by USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services at your local [NIES Endorsement Center](#). APHIS will endorse in the blank area at the bottom of page 4.*

Signed at: *City and State of the veterinary practice*

**OFFICIAL STAMP:** *there is no need to complete this step as the document will be endorsed by USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services.*