



Pet Travel - Bringing Dogs into the US

Pet Dog Import Guide



U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)) has certain requirements that must be met before a dog can be admitted entry into the United States. All dogs must appear healthy and depending upon what country the dogs are coming from, a valid rabies vaccination certificate may be required. To learn more, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/dogs.html>

Contact: 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)

CDCAnimalImports@cdc.gov

USDA APHIS Animal Care has separate requirements if you are bringing dogs in for the purpose of resale, such as commercial sale or adoption as pets.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) may have additional entry requirements for dogs.

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) has additional requirements for dogs traveling (imported) to the U.S. from countries affected by specific diseases:

Dogs traveling to the U.S. from **countries or regions where screwworm is known to exist**, may enter the U.S. if they meet the following requirements:

- The dog must be accompanied by a certificate signed by a full-time salaried veterinary official of the region of origin stating:
 - The dog has been inspected for screwworm within 5 days prior to shipment to the United States; and
 - The dog is either free from screwworm **OR** was found to be infested with screwworm, was held in quarantine, and was treated until free from screwworm prior to leaving the region.

Additional Considerations

Dogs coming from a country other than those on the list of countries declared free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) need to have their fur and bedding free of excessive dirt or natural bedding such as hay or straw. The pet should be bathed as soon as it reaches its destination and should be kept separate from all livestock for 5 days after entry into the United States.

Dogs used in the handling of livestock imported from any part of the world **except** Canada, Mexico and regions of Central America and the West Indies, should have no evidence of tapeworm infection.

Additional State Requirements

When available, you will find additional information about bringing a dog into a particular State on

that State's Department of Agriculture website. If information about traveling with a dog is not found on this site, you should contact the State Department of Agriculture or the State Veterinarian's Office of your destination state directly, to determine if there are any import requirements..

--State Traveling To--

Considerations for airline travel

Airlines may have separate and additional requirements. Check with your airline to determine what requirements they may have.

IMPORTANT

Carefully read ALL of the requirements related to your pet on this page.

- ◆ It is the responsibility of the pet owner to make sure their pet has met the entry requirements of the U.S. Failure to meet these import requirements will result in problems upon arrival in the U.S. and the pet may be refused entry.
- ◆ Multiple agencies may have regulatory authority over your pet when it enters the U.S. It is important to notify and coordinate with all responsible government agencies. Contact information and additional details are located on each specific pet page.
- ◆ If you need clarification of the entry requirements, please contact the National Import Export Services by phone at (301) 851-3300 or e-mail .

Helpful References for Pet Travel

Importation

Bringing a Dog into the United States

All dogs must appear healthy to enter the United States. And depending upon what country the dogs are coming from, they may need a valid rabies vaccination certificate.

The rules for bringing your dog into the United States are covered under US Regulations (see [Rabies vaccine certificate required when coming from these countries](#) below).

These rules apply to all dogs, including puppies, service animals, and emotional support dogs. These rules also apply whether you are (1) just visiting the United States with your dog, (2) importing dogs into the United States, or (3) traveling out of the United States and returning with your dog after a temporary visit, such as a vacation or holiday, or for shopping or visiting friends and relatives. If you do not follow CDC's rules, your dog may not be allowed to enter the United States.

In addition to CDC regulations, you must comply with [US Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#) and [your destination state's regulations](#) [↗](#), which are often more strict than federal regulations. Please be aware that dogs imported for commercial (resale or adoption) purposes have [additional requirements from USDA](#) [↗](#).



Where is your dog coming from?



What is a valid rabies vaccination certificate?



Rabies vaccine certificate required when coming from these countries

Perspective From the Field: Illegal Puppy Imports Uncovered at JFK Airport



At New York City's John F. Kennedy International Airport, the belly of the Boeing passenger jet opened to reveal the cargo hold filled with stacked crates of whimpering dogs, many more than usual. All were young puppies—most too young to leave their mothers—cowering and huddling in their cages, shivering while covered in their own waste after their long international flight. Witnessing the scene was a team of federal agents from the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and JFK's veterinarians accredited by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

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