

International Pet Travel: Help Your Clients Meet the Requirements

When working with veterinary clients who travel internationally with their pets, visit our new Web site at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pettravel> for up-to-date information on what's required.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has launched a new Web site devoted to international pet travel. Pets are often considered part of the family, but traveling with a pet isn't as simple as just booking a flight or driving across the border. As a veterinarian, you'll need to work closely with your clients to make sure their pets have all required documents, vaccinations, treatments, and/or tests before they travel.

We know this process can be stressful. That's why we designed a new Web site to help guide you and your clients through each step. Some countries have pre-travel requirements that take advanced planning and time to complete, so it's important to start the process early.

On our pet travel Web site, you'll find detailed information about taking a pet from the United States to another country (export) and bringing a pet into the United States from another country (import). The Web site covers the import and export of certain types of pets, including:

- Dogs
- Cats
- Birds
- Ferrets
- Rabbits
- Rodents
- Hedgehogs and tenrecs
- Reptiles
- Amphibians

Taking Pets to Another Country

Countries often have detailed animal health requirements that must be met before pets can cross their borders. These rules can vary greatly, so it's important to find out the exact requirements for the destination country and type of pet.

With the help of APHIS' pet travel Web site, you can provide your clients with the most current information available for a particular country. There, you'll also find country-specific health certificates and instructions for completing them. This will help you and your clients fill out the forms correctly so they are accepted by foreign officials. Please note that you must be USDA-accredited to issue any international health certificates that require APHIS endorsement.

To help you and your clients through the process, the site also provides:

- Frequently asked questions and answers,
- A step-by-step checklist to better understand and prepare for international travel requirements,

- Detailed documents on sending pets to select countries, and
- A link to find APHIS' closest Veterinary Services office for assistance.

Bringing Pets Into the United States

APHIS' mission is to protect the health and value of American agriculture and natural resources. To prevent the entry and spread of foreign animal diseases into our country, pets entering the United States from other countries may need to meet specific APHIS requirements. You can find information about these requirements on the new site. And for pet bird owners, the site provides a list of APHIS-approved ports of entry and contact information for our animal import centers.

Other Federal agencies also have rules for bringing pets into the United States. Our new Web site includes links to those agencies' sites to help you meet all of your clients' needs.



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Veterinary Services

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United States
Department of
Agriculture

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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

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To pet owners and others involved in the international movement of pets:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) is the competent government authority responsible for international export of live animals, including pets such as dogs and cats.

It is APHIS VS' role to provide endorsement (review, countersigning, and embossment) of international health certificates after issuance by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian when required by an importing foreign country. The APHIS Pet Travel Website has the most current pet travel requirements available and should be consulted to determine the importing country's requirements or obtain the appropriate international health certificate. This website can be viewed by visiting <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pettravel>.

When pets travel by airplane, some airlines may require an additional health certificate such as an APHIS 7001 form to be issued by a licensed veterinarian that states that the pet is fit to travel. The airline should not require APHIS endorsement of any additional information or documentation not required by the importing country.

Please note that effective July 31, 2016, APHIS VS will no longer be providing endorsement of the APHIS 7001 when this form is not required by the importing country. This information was communicated to the airlines in June of 2016.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your local VS Office. Contact information can be found on the APHIS Pet Travel Website. Thank you in advance for your attention to and assistance with this matter.

Respectfully,

Joyce Bowling-Heyward, DVM
National Director Import Export Animals
USDA APHIS VS- National Import Export Services



Safeguarding American Agriculture

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