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Bring a Pet Dog into the United States

Last Modified:



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the primary government authority for pet dogs imported into the United States, including returning U.S.-origin dogs.

APHIS Veterinary Services has requirements ONLY if your dog is coming from a foot and mouth disease (FMD) or screwworm-affected country.

Contact the CDC for all pet dog import requirements at 800-232-4636 or visit the [CDC website](#).

[View Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Additional information about dogs entering the United States from Mexico

For dogs traveling to the United States from Mexico, the required screwworm freedom certification may be issued by a clinical veterinarian trained and authorized to sign on behalf of the official government veterinarian.

A list of authorized veterinarians in Mexico that can issue screwworm freedom certification can be found on [Directorio de MVRA en Clínicas y Hospitales Veterinarios \(MVRA Directory of Veterinary Clinics and Hospitals\)](#)

Requirements for Pet Dogs Imported from FMD or Screwworm-Affected Countries

[Expand All](#)

Pet Dogs Imported from an FMD-Affected Country

If your pet dog is coming from a country or region where [foot and mouth disease](#) is known to exist, you must meet the following requirements:

- Their fur and bedding must be free of excessive dirt, hay, or straw.
- The dog should be bathed as soon as it reaches its destination and kept separate from all livestock for 5 days after entering the United States.

Note: There is no documentation required to meet FMD requirements.

[View Countries Affected by FMD](#)

Pet Dogs Imported from a Screwworm-Affected Country

If your pet dog is coming from a country or region where [screwworm](#) is known to exist, it may enter the United States only if it is accompanied by a certificate signed by a full-time salaried veterinary official (official government veterinarian) of the region of origin* stating that:

- 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
- The dog was infested with screwworm, held in quarantine, and treated until free from screwworm prior to leaving the region.

For more information about obtaining certificate endorsement by an official government veterinarian, contact the Animal Health Competent Authority of the country your pet is traveling from. The Animal Health Competent Authority is the Veterinary Authority or other Governmental Authority with responsibility for ensuring implementation of animal health and welfare measures, including enforcement of international veterinary certification standards for the entire country. For additional support in identifying a foreign Animal Health Competent Authority, please visit:

- [Members—World Organisation for Animal Health \(WOAH\)](#)
- [U.S. Department of State—Contact Info for Foreign Embassies and Consulates](#)

Note: APHIS Veterinary Services does not have a required template or form for screwworm freedom certification. The certification can be a standalone document or incorporated into an export health certificate issued in the exporting country. Documentation will be reviewed and the dog inspected at the port of entry.

[View Countries Affected by Screwworm](#)

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Additional Requirements

Livestock Handling Dogs

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

Dogs for Commercial Resale or Adoption

APHIS [Animal Care](#) regulates dogs imported for commercial purposes, such as resale or adoption. [View additional requirements for commercial dog imports.](#)

Related Information

[U.S. State and Territory Animal Entry Requirements](#)

[Take a Pet from the United States to Another Country \(Export\)](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions on Dog Importations | CDC.gov](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions on Service Dogs | CDC.gov](#)

Need Help?

For questions about pre-export certification for dogs that will return to the United States, including how to complete the U.S.-issued rabies vaccination certification:

CDC Animal Imports

Email: cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov

Website

- [How To Complete the CDC's Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination Form](#)

Website

- [How To Complete the CDC's Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination Form](#)

For general questions related to the import of a live animal:

Live Animal Import and Export

Email: laie@usda.gov

Phone: [301-851-3300](tel:301-851-3300)

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