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Export Live Animals to New Zealand

Last Modified:

Electronic Signature **ACCEPTED**; Original Ink Endorsement **REQUIRED**

For Accredited Veterinarians: Electronic signature **ACCEPTED**

For APHIS VMO: Original ink endorsement **REQUIRED**

USDA-accredited veterinarians can electronically issue health certificates and use VEHCS (Veterinary Export Health Certification System) to submit them to USDA for endorsement.

USDA must ink-sign and emboss the health certificate.

What This Means for You

Accredited Veterinarians: Use the links below to access or get help with VEHCS. Learn more about [how to issue export health certificates](#).

Animal Owners/Shippers: You can arrange to have your health certificate returned by mail (a prepaid, preaddressed return label must be provided during certificate submission). The endorsed health certificate—ink-signed and embossed—must accompany the animal(s) during shipment or travel.

Live Animal Export Country Requirements

- Select a Country - ▼

[View](#)

[Requirements](#)

Summary of Requirements

The most current protocols for exporting animals, semen, and embryos to New Zealand are available on [New Zealand's Importing live animals website](#).

Notification from New Zealand's government: Import permit application cut-off date is November 8, 2024. Import permit applications submitted after November 8, 2024, will be assessed by MPI as soon as they are able. However, they can give no guarantee that permits submitted after November 8 will be processed prior to February 28, 2025.

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Aquatic Animals

APHIS Registered Aquaculture Export Facility [approval is required](#) for freshwater prawns from Hawaii, marine invertebrates, ornamental fish, and sand tiger sharks.

Protocols available on [New Zealand's Importing live animals website](#) for export from the United States to New Zealand:

- Antarctic Fish
- Freshwater Prawns from Hawaii
- Invertebrates
- Ornamental Fish
- Sand Tiger Sharks

Cattle

Note: Please visit [New Zealand's Importing live animals website](#) for more information.

- [Bovine - Semen - Health Certificate](#) - September 2025
- [Bovine - Embryos - In vivo Derived - Health Certificate](#) - September 2025

Note: These certificates were updated in September 2025, and the updated version must be used starting October 1, 2025.

Equine

- [Horses - Health Certificate](#) (432.97 KB)- Revised June 2020

Note: The Supplementary Transport Declaration (last page) is to be issued by the USDA accredited veterinarian or APHIS official within 24 hours or at the time of embarkation from the pre-export isolation facility (APHIS endorsement not required).

- [Horses - NZ Standards for Pre-Export Isolation Facility](#) (173.34 KB)
- [Horses - Additional Information - Website](#)
- [Equine - Semen - Health Certificate](#) (160.42 KB) - September 2018

Poultry

Note: Please visit [New Zealand's Importing live animals website](#) to view the health certificates for the commodities listed below.

- Hatching Eggs

Other Animals

Note: Please visit [New Zealand's Importing live animals website](#) to view the health certificates for the commodities listed below.

- Canine - Semen

- Laboratory Animals and Germplasm
- Zoo Animals
- Zebra - Semen

Taking a Pet to Another Country?

[Visit Pet Travel](#)

If your species is not listed, the requirements for that species are not known. Exporters who want to ship livestock or germplasm whose requirements are not listed above should have the importer or buyer in the destination country apply for an import permit at the appropriate ministry. This import permit will most likely outline the specific requirements.

Need Help?

USDA-Accredited Veterinarians

Contact a USDA-accredited veterinarian for questions about your destination country's entry requirements for animals (including any needed vaccinations, tests, or treatments) and for issuance of health certificates.

[Find a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian](#)

USDA Endorsement Offices

Contact the appropriate email for questions about endorsing an export health certificate for live animals.

Pets - AskVETS@usda.gov

Livestock, including equine, poultry, and wildlife/zoo animals -
LivestockExport@usda.gov

Semen, embryos - GermplasmExport@usda.gov

Aquaculture - VETS.RAEF@usda.gov

In-person appointments and drop-off endorsement services are **not** available. For best results, accredited veterinarians should submit certificates electronically through the Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS).

For VEHCS help see the [VEHCS help page](#). Routine APHIS VEHCS processing services are staffed Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM Central Time (CT) excluding federal holidays, the time listed in VEHCS reflects GMT.

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[All Contacts](#)

Related Resources

- [Frequently Asked Questions About Live Animal Exports](#)
- [VEHCS Login](#)
- [National Veterinary Accreditation Program: Information for Veterinarians](#)
- [Role of the Accredited Veterinarian in International Animal Exports](#)

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