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# Export Live Animals to Costa Rica

Last Modified:

## Electronic Signature and Digital Endorsement ACCEPTED

**For Accredited Veterinarians:** Electronic signature ACCEPTED

**For APHIS VMO:** Digital endorsement ACCEPTED

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

**USDA can digitally endorse the health certificate and return it electronically.**

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:** The endorsed health certificate can be printed out directly from VEHCS and does **not** have to be mailed back to you. The printed, endorsed health certificate must accompany the animal(s) during shipment or

travel.

[VEHCS Help](#) | [VEHCS Guide](#) (7.58 MB) | [VEHCS Login](#)

Live Animal Export Country Requirements  [View Requirements](#)

## Summary of Requirements

[Expand All](#)

### Equine

- [Horse - Protocol](#) - October 2016
- [Horses - Semen - Health Certificate](#) (118.06 KB) - February 2013
- [Horses - Costa Rican Horses Returning to Costa Rica after Competition - Health Certificate](#) (104.86 KB) - July 2018

### Cattle

**NOTE:** Effective **May 22, 2024** there is a trade restriction on cattle due to HPAI detections in U.S. cattle. **Costa Rica** has prohibited the export of live cattle originating from states affected by HPAI in U.S. cattle.

- [Cattle - Protocol](#) (21.81 KB)- August 2007
- [Watusi - Protocol](#) (161.44 KB)- February 2007
- [Bovine - Embryos - Health Certificate](#) - March 2019  
**Note:** Costa Rica does not require any statements about BSE on the bovine semen and embryo protocols.
- [Bovine - Semen - Protocol and Health Certificate](#) (61.55 KB)- November 2011  
**Note:** Costa Rica does not require any statements about BSE on the bovine semen and embryo protocols.

### Sheep and Goats

- [Goats - Health Certificate](#) (235.32 KB)-November 2017
- [Sheep - Health Certificate](#) (80.12 KB) -January 2015
- [Caprine - Semen - Protocol](#) (35.09 KB)- February 2012
- [Caprine - Embryos - Protocol](#) (66.14 KB)-June 2012
- [Ovine - Semen - Protocol](#) (30.99 KB) -January 2012
- [Ovine - Embryos - Protocol](#) (49.44 KB) - June 2012

## Swine

- [Swine - Breeding - Health Certificate](#) (98.03 KB) - October 2015
- [Swine - Semen - Health Certificate](#) (397.39 KB) -August 2018

## Poultry

- [Poultry - Day-old Chicks, Poults, and Hatching Eggs - Protocol](#) (92.04 KB) - October 2018

## Birds (non-Poultry)

- [Wild Birds - Health Certificate](#) (324.09 KB)- August 2021

## Taking a Pet to Another Country?

[Visit Pet Travel](#)

## Aquaculture/Aquatic Animals

APHIS Registered Aquaculture Export Facility [approval is required](#) for tilapia and ornamental aquatic animals.

- [Tilapia - Health Certificate](#) (193.41 KB) -April 2019
- [Ornamental Aquatic Animals - Health Certificate](#) (283.41 KB)-August 2021

**Note:** Only those U.S. origin **ornamental** aquatic animal species listed in the PDF posted below (including marine fish, inland fish, invertebrates, coral and live food species) have market access and are approved for export from the United States to Costa Rica. Those who wish to export U.S. origin **ornamental** aquatic animal species that are **not** included on these posted lists will need to have their Costa Rican importer contact the National Animal Health Service of the Ministry of Agriculture of Costa Rica to request a special import permit.

[Eligible U.S. Ornamental Aquatic Animal Species to Costa Rica](#) (346.27 KB)

## Research/Laboratory Animals

- [Laboratory Animals - Semen and Embryos - Health Certificate](#) (270.39 KB) - June 2019

## Other Animals

- [Striped Skunks - Protocol](#) (13.37 KB)-July 2012
- [Crickets - Health Certificate](#) (81.94 KB) - December 2016
- [Canine - Semen - Health Certificate](#) (418.99 KB)-April 2018
- [Zoo Bovidae - Protocol](#) (27.39 KB)-October 2007
- [Antelopes and Watusi - Protocol](#) (161.44 KB) -February 2007
- [Zebra - Protocol](#) (19.72 KB) -February 2007
- [Dromedary - Protocol](#) (19.38 KB) -February 2007
- [Giraffe - Protocol](#) (19.4 KB)- February 2007
- [Warthog - Protocol](#) (17.33 KB) -February 2007

## Taking a Pet to Another Country?

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## **Costa Rica Import Permit Information**

Importers in Costa Rica must apply for an import permit. Importers may obtain an import permit at the following address:

Ministerio Agricultura y Ganaderia  
Chief, Animal Quarantine  
Apartado 10094  
Barrial Heredia  
San Jose - 1000  
Costa Rica  
Telephone: 011-506-238-2371  
Facsimile: 011-506-237-7697

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); issuance of health certificates; and status updates on certificate endorsement

[Find a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian](#)

Live Animal Industry Team

APHIS Veterinary Services' Industry Team offers commodity-specific expertise for live animal exports. Use the dropdown to contact us with questions about endorsing

export health certificates.

- Select a Commodity - ▼

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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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# Tips for Exporters and Accredited Veterinarians

## Endorsement Services

- **No in-person or drop-off services.**
- For fastest processing, have your [accredited veterinarian](#) **submit certificates through [VEHCS](#).**
- Routine APHIS VEHCS processing services are staffed Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time (CT), excluding Federal holidays. The time listed in VEHCS reflects GMT.
- Paper certificates are discouraged but may be mailed to one of our two paper endorsement offices (see addresses below).

## Status Updates

Endorsement offices **cannot confirm delivery or provide status updates.** For updates:

- Contact your [accredited veterinarian](#) (they can check VEHCS status).
- Use your **mail tracking number.**

## Important Tips

- Ensure accuracy and submit documents as early as possible within the allowed timeline of the destination country to avoid delays.
- Use **overnight or Saturday delivery** when mailing.

## **Mailing Addresses**

USDA-APHIS

Attn: VETS

920 Main Campus Dr., Suite 200

Raleigh, NC 27606

USDA-APHIS

Attn: VETS

10365 Old Placerville Rd., Suite 210

Sacramento, CA 95827

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