Travel With a Pet

Last Modified:

Traveling With Your Dog? Check CDC Requirements!

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the primary authority for dog imports. This includes dogs entering or returning to the United States.

- CDC requires all U.S.-vaccinated dogs that have traveled to a high-risk country for rabies within the past 6 months to have a "Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination" form.
- This form must be submitted by a USDA-accredited veterinarian ***before*** the dog leaves the United States.

For more information, visit the **CDC website.**

If you're planning to travel with your pet, you may need to complete certain paperwork or tasks before you go. Meeting these requirements takes time, so don't delay. The information on this page will help you get started.

Are you taking your pet from the United States to another country? Contact a USDA-accredited veterinarian as soon as you decide to travel. They will help you determine your destination country's pet entry requirements and assist you through the process.

Not all animals qualify for pet travel.

What is considered a pet? A pet is a privately owned companion animal not intended for research or resale and includes only certain animal groups.

Expand To See More

Find out if your pet qualifies to travel

Your animal doesn't qualify for pet travel and is subject to different import regulations and export regulations if you:

- Don't see your pet listed below.

- Are exporting semen or embryos from any animal.
- Have a pet that's considered livestock or poultry, like pigs or chickens.

The following animals qualify as pets, meaning they're subject to pet travel requirements:

Dogs

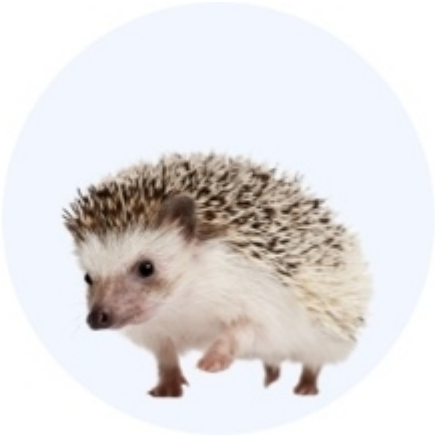
Cats

Ferrets

Rabbits

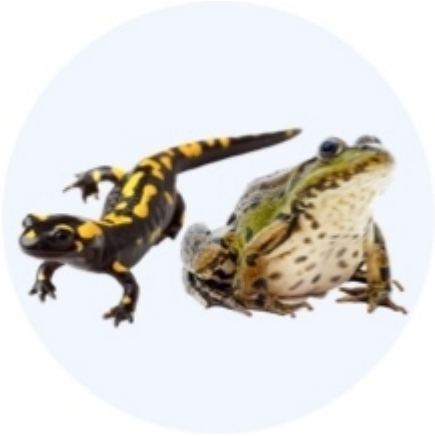
Rodents

Hedgehogs/Tenrecs



Reptiles

Amphibians



Birds (not all types—see below)

The following birds DON'T qualify as pets, meaning they're subject to different regulations:

Because they may carry and transmit certain diseases to the U.S. poultry industry, these birds are regulated as poultry.

- Chickens
- Doves
- Ducks
- Geese
- Grouse
- Guinea fowl
- Partridges
- Pea fowl
- Pheasants
- Pigeons
- Quail
- Swans
- Turkeys

View import regulations and export regulations if the type of animal you have does not qualify as a pet.

I Want To...

Take a Pet From the United States to Another Country (Export)

Bring a Pet From Another Country into the United States (Import)

Take a Pet From One U.S. State or Territory to Another (Interstate)

Find a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian

If you are planning to **take your pet from the United States to another country**, contact a USDA-accredited veterinarian as soon as you decide to travel. They will help you determine your destination country's pet entry requirements, including any needed vaccinations, tests, or treatments, and assist you through the process of obtaining a USDA-endorsed pet health certificate or other needed paperwork.

Related Resources

Pets on Planes

Traveling with a dog or cat? Find out what you can do to improve their safe air journey and increase the likelihood that they will arrive healthy at their destination.

Learn More

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