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Pet Travel From the United States to India

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.

VEHCS Help | VEHCS Guide (7.6 MB) | VEHCS Login

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 (7.6 MB) | VEHCS Login

Electronic Signature ACCEPTED; Digital Endorsement for SOME COMMODITIES ONLY

For Accredited Veterinarians: Electronic signature ACCEPTED

For APHIS VMO: Digital endorsement for SOME COMMODITIES ONLY

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

Digital endorsement varies by species—see requirements on this page for details. The health certificate either bears the original ink signature and embossed seal ***or*** digital signature/seal.

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: Digitally endorsed health certificates can be printed out directly from VEHCS. For non-digitally endorsed health certificates, you can arrange to have your health certificate returned by mail (a prepaid, preaddressed return label must be provided during certificate submission). A paper version of the endorsed health certificate must accompany the animal(s) during shipment or travel.

VEHCS Help | VEHCS Guide (7.6 MB) | VEHCS Login

Travel Requirements Based on Pet Type

Carefully read ALL of the requirements related to your pet on this page.

- This page provides the most recent entry requirements and can change without notice.
- It is the responsibility of the veterinarian to make sure the pet has met all health requirements of the destination country before issuing a health certificate.
- Failure to meet the requirements may result in problems gaining certificate endorsement or difficulties upon arrival in the destination country.
- Health certificates must be legible, accurate, and complete.

Expand All

Dogs and Cats

India's website for pet import regulations

Procedure for import of pet dogs into India (615.28 KB)

Procedure for import of pet cats into India (619.56 KB)

Expand All

Step 1: Health Certificate

The requirements for traveling with your pet are described in the health certificate.

A health certificate for dogs or cats can also be generated by the pet's veterinarian through the Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS). Once the veterinarian logs on to VEHCS and enters the destination country and commodity, VEHCS will walk them through each step to generate the certificate and submit it to APHIS for endorsement.

Note: A printed paper copy of the completed health certificate must accompany each shipment.

Quick Reference Guides for the Pet's Veterinarian

Veterinary Health Certificate for Dogs

Veterinary Health Certificate for Cats

Step 2: DGFT License (for pets not permanently moving to India)

India’s Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) requires all pets temporarily traveling to India to obtain a DGFT license before obtaining a No Objection Certificate (NOC) and traveling. The form used to apply for the DGFT License is called the ANF-2M. Columns 2(i) & (ii), 3(ii), 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9 must be completed prior to submission of the form to India’s Regional Authorities.

View the application form and details on how to submit it

Note: The DGFT license may take about 1 month for processing.

Step 3: No Objection Certificate (NOC)

Pets (dogs and cats) need an NOC document in addition to a valid health certificate. The exporter (pet owner) is responsible for obtaining the NOC from India. **APHIS is not involved and does not endorse the NOC.**

All pets entering into India must be issued an NOC from the Animal Quarantine and Certification Station (AQCS) in India whether accompanied or manifest, prior to landing into India. People intending on arriving with their pets as accompanied luggage can have an agent apply for this certificate before they enter the country. The NOC can be applied for by mail, fax, or in person.

The NOC document takes about 5 working days to obtain. Documents required prior to obtaining this document are:

1. All vaccination records of the pet
2. Government-issued veterinary certificate from the exporting country USDA document
3. Flight details/confirmation of the passenger's travel into India/copy of the airway bill

Procedural Formalities:

1. No Objection Certificate (NOC) issued by the Quarantine Officer at the Animal Quarantine Station in India.

2. A duplicate copy of the NOC has to be fixed on the crate of the pet during the air travel.
3. Original copy of the NOC has to be produced in India to get the pet released from the customs at the Airport in India.
4. On arrival in India, an appointment with the Quarantine Officer for issue of a temporary Health Certificate on examination of the pet.
5. Thirty days thereafter, a certificate of health to be obtained from a local veterinarian to be produced at the Animal Quarantine Station. Then, the pet will be issued a permanent certificate of health for their stay in India.

Having an in-country representative is preferred to get an NOC from the Quarantine officer before arrival and per the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DADF) most of the applicants appoint some in-country representative who works for them. However, if the passenger does not have any contact in India then they can send the original documents via email. In such cases it is recommended to send a copy to DADF & a follow-up phone call is suggested to the specific quarantine station. The DADF stressed that such cases are dealt with on an exceptional basis.

Contact information for AQCS at the different ports can be found by clicking the following links:

AQCS Delhi

AQCS Mumbai

AQCS Kolkatta

AQCS Chennai

AQCS Bangalore

AQCS Hyderabad

Step 4: Post Quarantine Information

On arrival, the Regional Officer/ Quarantine Officer will examine the health of dog/cat, verify the veterinary certificate and vaccination records of imported

dog/cat. If the pet(s) is/are free from any clinical illness as well as the documents including veterinary certificate/vaccination records are found in order, the animals imported as pets under accompanied baggage or un-accompanied baggage shall be quarantined for 15 days. If the pet is detected with any signs of clinical illness during quarantine, the period of quarantine may be extended depending on the disease and its severity.

Dogs/cats brought for temporary visits, such as shows, visitors, travelers, therapy, assistance and security purposes, along with masters, shall be exempted from 15 days quarantine period provided the owner of the pet presents required documents:

1. passport/pet book/health card of dog,
2. passport of owner,
3. visa
4. return journey ticket,
5. health certificate issued by the veterinary authority in the name of owner carrying the dog; and
6. proof of purpose of visit.

In such case(s) owner shall furnish the health certificate fulfilling sanitary conditions as above. Also, during the stay in India, the owner shall furnish details of his/her temporary location, phone number etc. so that the quarantine officer may visit the place for verification, if required. The owner of the pet(s) shall be present at the time of entry into India and during his/her return from India at the respective AQCS. This provision is applicable for import up to **two pets** only. The quarantine officer will prepare a declaration form for this category of animal.

No import of feed or bedding etc. will be allowed along with the dog(s).

Other Pets

For pet travel requirements not listed, APHIS has not been officially informed by the foreign country about the requirements for your pet’s travel. We recommend that you contact a government official of the country you are traveling to for more information.

Country of Destination Contact Information

World Organisation for Animal Health: Members

U.S. Department of State: Foreign Embassies and Consulates

Countries Participating in the European Union

Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia

Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Republic of Ireland
Italy
Latvia

Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Netherlands
Northern Ireland*
Norway**
Poland
Portugal

Romania
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland**

* Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom (UK), but will continue to follow European Union (EU) requirements even though the UK is no longer part of the EU.
** Norway and Switzerland are **not** part of the EU but have adopted EU legislation for import of most species of live animals.

Important Travel Considerations

Considerations for airline travel and cruises:



Airlines and shipping lines have their own policies and requirements for transporting pets. Check with your airline or shipping representative to determine what requirements they may have.

Learn how you can improve the safety of dogs and cats during air travel.

View additional information for pet owners, airlines, and others about APHIS endorsement of international health certificates (239.52 KB).

If pets or support animals accompany you on a cruise, you must comply with entry rules for **every** country or port where your pet or support animal exits the ship.

Will you be returning to the United States with your pet?



View APHIS Requirements

ALERT: CDC is the primary authority for dog imports. For requirements or questions about dogs entering or returning to the United States, visit the CDC website.

See More See Less

Need Help?

Guidance for Pet Owners

Read an overview of the process for taking your pet to another country and related resources.

Frequently Asked Questions

View frequently asked questions about traveling with your pet.

Still Have Questions?

USDA-Accredited Veterinarians

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

Find a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian

APHIS Endorsement Offices

Contact APHIS Veterinary Export Trade Services if you have questions about endorsing an international pet health certificate. For quickest help, see **tips for pet owners and accredited veterinarians.**

Generalist Team

Veterinary Export Trade Services

Email: askvets@usda.gov

Helpful Links:

- Frequently Asked Questions About Pet Travel for Accredited Veterinarians

Helpful Links:

- Frequently Asked Questions About Pet Travel for Accredited Veterinarians

All Contacts

Looking for Another Country?

Find your destination country requirements by using the dropdown menu below. If your country is not listed in the menu, visit Pet Travel: Unknown Requirements.

Select Destination Country Select Destination Cour ▼ Go

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