

INFORMATION ON INTERSTATE & INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL WITH A DOMESTIC PET INTERSTATE

- Each state has their own requirements for health and Rabies vaccination certification. Check each state prior to travel – go to www.aphis.usda.gov
- State USDA/APHIS/VS area veterinary offices can be found at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices.
- USDA standards for shipping dogs and cats can be found in Part 3, Standards of the Animal Welfare Regulations Sections 3.13 to 3.19
- Airlines may have varying rules/regulations for transport. Pet owners should check with their specific airline as far in advance of travel as possible.
- Amtrak does not allow pets onboard its trains with the exception of service animals

Air Travel :

Pets may be transported as either “cargo” or “accompanied baggage”.

- “Accompanied baggage” – owner must be traveling on same flight. If small enough, pets can be carried in a carrier in to the airplane cabin if the carrier is capable of fitting under passenger’s seats.
- “Cargo” – owner does not have to be on the flight. Pets are transported in the same pressurized holds as the checked baggage.
- USDA requires animal must be at least 8 weeks old and fully weaned before traveling with airlines
- Sedation is generally not advised since the effects of tranquilizers on animals at higher altitudes are unpredictable

- Size and construction of transport carriers **MUST** follow IATA (International Air Transport Association) regulations. IATA compliant pet cargo crates must be sturdy, properly ventilated and large enough for animal to freely stand, turn around and lie down. The kennel must close securely with a mechanism that requires no special tools to operate.
- The cargo crate must display the words “LIVE ANIMALAS” printed in 1 inch lettering and all pertinent owner information must be displayed (Name, address of departure, address of destination, and phone numbers are recommended.)

Airline temperature restrictions :

- Heat: pets will not be accepted when the current or forecasted temperature at the arrival or departure airport is above 84°F (75 °F for snub-nosed dogs/cats (brachycephalic breeds)
- Cold: pets will not be accepted when the ground temperature is below 45° F at any location on the itinerary **UNLESS** the pet has a vet’s statement of low temperature acclimation
- Low temperature acclimation statement must include: name and address of passenger, name of animal, name and signature of licensed vet, vet’s accreditation date and number, the temperature to which animal is acclimated. If the temperature is below 20 ° F pets will not be checked even with a low temperature statement certificate.
- Any violent or aggressive animal may be rejected by the airlines
- **ALWAYS** reconfirm with the airline 24 -48 hours before departure.

HAWAII REGULATIONS

- Checklist and instruction kit for import into Hawaii can be purchased online through numerous sites (www.pettravelstore.com/store-pet-immigration-forms1.html)
- Contact Hawaii Dept of Ag for information at:
www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa/doa_importing.htm
- New five day program designed to allow pets that meet criteria to be released immediately upon arrival at the Honolulu airport (process must start no less than 120 days prior to arrival in Hawaii to qualify)

Regulations for the movement of pets into Hawaii from the Mainland USA

Step One: Permit

1) AQS 278 Dog/Cat Import Permit

*Original copy only, no photocopies

*Must be signed <14days prior to arrival in Hawaii

2) Rabies Vaccinations

*Must have minimum of 2 RV in lifetime more than 90 days apart

*If pet has been vaccinated with a 3 year Rabies vaccine then it must have been given less than 18 months but greater than 3 months prior to arrival.

*If pet has been vaccinated with a 1 year vaccine then it must have been given less than 12 months but greater than 3 months prior to arrival

*Certificate MUST have LATEST Rabies vaccine and all PRIOR Rabies vaccine dates documented

*RV documentation requires:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| a. Vaccine name, | d. Vaccine date, |
| b. Lot #, | e. Expiration date |
| c. serial#, | f. 1 year vs. 3 year vaccine |

3) Health Certificate

*MUST treat for ticks <14 days prior to arrival with Fipronil or equivalent long lasting product

*Certificate must include date of treatment and product used

Step Two: Microchip

****ALWAYS SCAN A PATIENT PRIOR TO INSERTING A NEW CHIP****

*Certificate MUST include chip number

*Certificate MUST say “successfully scanned”

*Microchip MUST be International Microchip meeting ISO Standards 11784/11785 (Home Again/Avid)

*MUST be implanted PRIOR to OIE RV blood test

Step Three: OIE – Rabies Blood Test

*Requires a certificate from an approved lab showing result of
 $\geq 0.5\text{IU/ml}$.

*Certificate MUST show microchip number

*Blood test **MUST** be done <18months but >120 days prior to arrival

Step Four: Send Applications

*Mail original (no copies) of documents to the

Animal Quarantine Branch, State of Hawaii

99-951 Halawa Valley Street

Aiea, HI 96701

(e-mail: RabiesFree@hawaii.gov)

*Enclose payment in cashier's check or money order

*Documents and payment **MUST** arrive 10 days prior to the pet's arrival but health certificate must not be prepared more than 14 days prior to arrival – **MUST** send by Federal Express to meet these requirements

Step Five: Arrival

*Enter Hawaii through Honolulu International Airport between hours of 8am and 9pm

*Pet then taken to the quarantine center

*Pick up pet at quarantine center

*Only special arrangements to enter through Kahului, Kona, or Lihue

****Failure to comply with these regulations will mean pet will be refused entry and authorities can decide to return pet to mainland, place pet in quarantine at owner's expense, or - as a last resort - put the pet down if the return trip home or quarantine cannot be expedited**

International Export/Import

1) International Export

- International health certificates for the export of animals from the US must be completed by an APHIS accredited vet and MUST be endorsed by Veterinary Services Area Office.
- The “stamping” process or Federal endorsement is a final review process where Veterinary Service officials verify the information on the certificate and ensures that the animal meets the destination country’s requirements. All supporting original copy documents (i.e. Rabies Vaccine certificates, OIE-FAVN Rabies test) MUST be reviewed by the Veterinary Service Area Office. There is a charge for this service – owners can contact the area office for information.

- **NJ Area Office**

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 8am – 4:30pm

Office Email: VSNJ@aphis.usda.gov

Telephone : 609-259-8387 or 609-259-5260

Fax: 609-259-2477

Address: USDA, APHIS VS

Mercer Corporate Park

320 Corporate Blvd

Robbinsville, NJ 08691-1598

- Each country may have additional and very SPECIFIC health requirements for entry. These are established by the importing country and may frequently change. Owners MUST contact the importing country’s consulate or embassy to ensure the most current and complete requirements. Information on requirements for specific countries can be found at: www.aphis.usda.gov
- **FAILURE TO MEET ALL REQUIREMENTS MAY MEAN ENTRY REFUSAL OF THE PET INTO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY!!**

- Countries of the European Union have a specific form (EU Form 998 Vet Certificate) as well as individual country requirements.
- Additional information on international regulations can be found at numerous websites including:
 - www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals
 - www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/fco (consulate info)
 - www.defra.gov.uk (Pet Travel Scheme for UK)
 - www.agriculture.gov.ie/pets (EU information)
 - www.pettravel.com (excellent overall pet travel resource)
- There are companies that specialize in international pet transportation which are licensed and inspected by USDA/APHIS's Animal Care Unit. These are listed on the International Airline Transportation Association (IATA) website : www.iata.org
- Use the International Health Certificate USDA-APHIS Form 7001 - US Interstate and International Certificate of Health Examination for Small Animals.
 - * Health certificate examination never more than 14 days before travel!
 - * CAN NOT BE POST-DATED !!! Legal implications if done and can result in termination of accreditation and legal action against vet license.
- The USDA sets and enforces regulations for the transportation of live animals. This includes acceptance of animals, the size/type of crating, temperature restrictions and specific airline requirements.

Good resources :

- a. www.pettravel.com
- b. www.iata.org (International Pet Animal Transportation Association)

- ENGLAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM HAVE VERY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS DUE TO THEIR RABIES – FREE STATUS.
 - The process for the UK countries is called the “Pet Travel Scheme”
 - The requirements for the Pet Travel Scheme are outlined and described on the website www.defra.gov.uk
 - THE DOCUMENTATION PROCESS FOR ENTRY INTO THESE COUNTRIES REQUIRES AT LEAST 6 MONTHS TO OBTAIN ALL NECESSARY CERTIFICATES AND PROCEDURES PERFORMED PRIOR TO THE TRAVEL DATE.
 - Outlined process
 - 1) Minimum of 6 months prior to travel : pet must be micro-chipped or confirmed to have a ISO standard microchip. (UK no longer accepts tattoos)
 - 2) Must vaccinate/revaccinate AFTER microchip is installed/confirmed to be present.
 - 3) OIE-FAVN Rabies Titer testing must be submitted to an approved lab
 - 4) Re-booster RV 6 months from date of the OIE-FAVN blood sampling. If date is missed and >6months MUST restart entire process.
 - 5) Ancillary treatments as needed for importing country (i.e. England requires Echinococcus and tick treatments 24 to 48 hours prior to entry)
 - 6) 6 months from the date of OIE-FAVN testing the pet may travel and enter/reenter the UK.

2) International Import

- The CDC sets forth regulations for the importation of dogs and cats into the US.
- CDC website: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/animal/index.htm
- CDC telephone contact: 1-800-232-4636
- For Import Animal Program information contact 301-734-8364

- This includes all pets RETURNING to the US from other countries, with previous export health certificates
- DO NOT use straw, hay, grass or other natural bedding when returning to US since Plant Protection and Quarantine Division does not allow importation of these plant materials.
- SCREWWORM is biggest concern. Pets returning from countries where screwworm is known to exist may enter with following requirements:
 - Certificate signed by vet official from area of origin stating that pet has been inspected for screwworm within 5 days prior to shipment into the US.
 - Certificate MUST state the dog is either free from screwworm or was found to be infested with screwworm and was held in quarantine and treated until free from screwworm prior to leaving region.
- Pets returning from countries affected with Foot-and-Mouth Disease are advised to be sure pets are free from excessive dirt or mud, no natural bedding is used during travel, pet should be bathed as soon as it reaches its final destination, and the pet should be separated from all livestock for at least 5 days after re-entry into the US.

Informative websites:

*USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

www.aphis.usda.gov

*Foreign Embassy/Consulate list (US Dept of State)

www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/fco

*United Kingdom (UK) requirements

www.defra.gov.uk

*European Union (EU) pet import rules/passports

www.agriculture.gov.ie/pets

*Extensive Info on Pet Travel (for owners)

www.pettravel.com

*International Airline Transportation Association (IATA)

www.iata.org

