

DIY Guide to the U.S. Dog Import Process

Bringing your Dog into the United States from a High-Risk Country

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SECTION 1

U.S. Dog Imports From High-Risk Countries

INTRODUCTION

This DIY guide is intended for **personal pet owners** whose dogs received their rabies vaccinations outside the United States and who would like to import their dogs into the U.S. from **high-risk countries**.

The import process can be completed by owners with the assistance of their veterinarians. The requirements are not complicated, except for the rules that apply to rabies titer tests, but your veterinarian can take care of the titer test details. Doing the work yourself is only a matter of having time, careful planning, attention to detail and perseverance. There is a large volume of information in this guide, but do not be discouraged, you can read through it at your own pace, and you can read only certain sections. It can be done!

The guide is divided into five sections as shown in the table of contents. Readers can begin with any section based on their existing knowledge, need for specific information and level of interest. There is some duplication of content across the sections as not everyone will read the entire document.

In the United States, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** is the federal agency responsible for dog import rules that are intended to prevent the spread of canine rabies. The **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)** also has import rules for dogs from countries where certain other diseases are present. **Both sets of agency rules** apply to all dogs entering or returning to the U.S.

➤ **Can I bring my dog into the United States from a high-risk country?**

Dogs that have been in a high-risk country at any time during the 6 months prior to arrival are required to follow the CDC rules for high-risk imports. These dogs are allowed to enter the U.S. if certain conditions and import requirements are met. Dogs present in high-risk countries that have not received a rabies vaccination are not allowed to enter the U.S. There is no limit on the number of dogs an owner can import.

Dogs that have received rabies vaccinations outside the U.S. must meet the requirements for **foreign-vaccinated dogs**. Here is the link to the related page on the CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/foreign-vaccinated-high-risk-countries.html>

Dogs that have both a **current** (unexpired) rabies vaccination administered in the United States and a valid import document will follow the import requirements for **U.S.-vaccinated dogs** at this link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/us-vaccinated-high-risk-countries.html>

If your U.S.-vaccinated dog does not meet these requirements (the U.S. rabies vaccination has expired or you do not have the required document to return your dog to the U.S.), then you must follow the rules for foreign-vaccinated dogs described in this Guide.

➤ **What countries are classified as high-risk for CDC dog import purposes?**

You can find a list of the high-risk countries here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/high-risk.html>

OVERVIEW OF DOG IMPORT REQUIREMENTS

To import **foreign-vaccinated** dogs that have been present in a high-risk country within 6 months of U.S. arrival, there are several CDC import requirements and a number of other requirements that may apply. Expect to spend a considerable amount of time researching these various requirements, coordinating the logistics of veterinary visits, completing import/export documents, determining a U.S. arrival date, making an advance reservation at a CDC-registered animal care facility and arranging air transportation.

➤ **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requirements**

- **dog** must:
 - be at least 6 months of age upon arrival (there are no exceptions)
 - be microchipped (readable for a universal scanner)
 - appear healthy upon arrival
 - have received at least one rabies vaccination on or after the age of 12 weeks
- **foreign veterinarian** completes an examination and issues the required CDC import document (*Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip*) that also requires endorsement by the official government veterinarian of the departure country
- **owner** must:
 - obtain a rabies titer test **-OR-** their dog must complete a 28-day quarantine upon arrival
 - obtain an advance reservation at a CDC-registered animal care facility
 - complete and submit a *CDC Dog Import Form*

Other requirements that may apply:

➤ **Live animal *export* requirements of the departure country**

Many countries require owners to obtain exams, treatments and/or documents to ensure that dogs leaving the country are healthy and free of parasites and disease. These requirements are in addition to the CDC dog import rules.

➤ **Airline pet travel policies**

Airlines transporting dogs on international flights typically require a veterinary health certificate to evidence that the dog is fit to fly.

➤ **CDC-registered animal care facility requirements**

Animal care facilities may require evidence of vaccinations for diseases other than rabies.

➤ **USDA/APHIS requirements for dogs from countries where certain diseases are present**

USDA regulations currently apply to dogs visiting countries where screwworm and/or foot-and-mouth disease are present. These requirements are in addition to the CDC dog import rules.

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/another-country-to-us-import/dogs>

SECTION 2

Questions & Answers

GENERAL

➤ **Are there any exceptions to the import rules for foreign-vaccinated dogs present in high-risk countries?**

There is a limited exception for service dogs (not including emotional support dogs) arriving at a U.S. seaport by cruise ship. These service dogs must meet the vaccination, testing and documentation requirements, but they do not have to be processed through a CDC-registered animal care facility. There is also an exception that applies to dogs of U.S. government employees traveling on official orders; these owners follow an alternative import process.

➤ **Is there a process for owners who have an urgent need to enter the U.S. with their dogs?**

There is no alternative, expedited process to bring a foreign-vaccinated dog (including service dogs) into the U.S. when an owner has a time-limited need to travel to the U.S. There are a few possible ways to shorten the process, but it can be expensive (footnote 1).

➤ **Will my foreign-vaccinated dog be required to quarantine in the U.S.?**

Dogs will not be subject to a mandatory 28-day quarantine as long as a valid rabies titer test is provided in addition to the required rabies vaccination and import documents. All dogs are held at the CDC-registered animal care facility until examined and revaccinated which is typically not more than one night unless owners arrive on a weekend or there are additional health tests/treatments that the CDC determines are needed.

➤ **Will bringing my foreign-vaccinated dog into the U.S. under the rules for high-risk countries involve significant costs?**

Yes, import costs for foreign-vaccinated dogs present in high-risk countries are significant. These costs will include charges for veterinary exams/treatments, blood draws and issuance of CDC import documents; laboratory fees for rabies titer tests; and the service fees of CDC-registered animal care facilities. Total import costs can be **\$2,000 - \$3,000 USD** (excluding dog transportation charges), and substantially more than this if your dog is required to be quarantined. The current cost of a 28-day quarantine is in the range of \$4,000 USD.

➤ **What options are available if I need help importing my dog?**

There are many businesses around the world that offer various services to assist owners with the dog import process and/or transportation. You can search for pet relocators, transporters and flight nanny businesses in your area and also for members of the International Pet and Animal Transportation Association (IPATA) which is a non-profit association of members that provide these types of services.

Footnote 1: You can choose not to submit a rabies titer test, but this will require that your dog be quarantined in the U.S. for 28-days (the quarantine period can be shortened in some cases); you can leave your dog with family or a boarding facility until the import requirements are completed; you can enter the U.S. before the 28-day waiting period after the blood sample is drawn for a titer test (as long as you have the test results before departure), but this will require quarantine for the remaining days of the waiting period; and/or you can ask the animal care facility if they are able to accommodate your circumstances and provide a reservation on short notice (the facilities do try to help if they have space).

TIMING OF THE IMPORT PROCESS

➤ **How soon do I need to begin preparing to import my dog?**

Because it is time-consuming to complete all of the CDC import requirements and obtain an advance reservation from a CDC-registered animal care facility, it is highly recommended that you begin preparing at least 45-60 days, and preferably 90 days, in advance of your planned U.S. arrival date.

➤ **What parts of the import process take the most time to complete?**

- **Rabies titer test** (if you choose to submit one) Obtaining a rabies titer test is often a time-consuming task that may take several weeks depending on whether the blood sample must be shipped to a CDC-approved laboratory in another country (only 11 high-risk countries currently have approved labs) and the volume of tests being processed by the lab at that particular time. In addition, if a dog is receiving its first valid rabies vaccination after a microchip is placed, a blood sample can not be drawn for the rabies titer test until at least 30 days after the vaccination was administered. And, if there is a failed titer test, it will have to be repeated (footnote 2).
- **Reserving space** at a CDC-registered animal care facility At this time there are only a small number of registered facilities located at a handful of U.S. airports. For most of the facilities, an advance reservation request typically needs to be submitted 30 to 45 days prior to departure to ensure space is available on your planned arrival date.
- **Air transportation** Depending on your departure country and particular circumstances, it is likely to take time to identify an airline that transports dogs into the U.S., offers flights to your chosen U.S. airport and has seats/dog spaces available on your preferred arrival date. Be careful not to underestimate how much time will be needed for this step.

➤ **What is the earliest my dog can enter the U.S.?**

If a rabies titer test is being submitted to avoid a 28-day quarantine in the U.S., dogs must wait at least 28 calendar days after the blood sample is drawn for the titer test to enter the U.S. If a dog arrives in the U.S. with a passing rabies titer test but without waiting the full 28 days, the dog must quarantine at the animal care facility for the remainder of this waiting period.

For some dogs, another 30-day waiting period will apply *before* a blood sample can be drawn for the rabies titer test, which then adds to the 28-day waiting period *after* the blood sample is drawn, making a total of 58 days after the dog receives a valid rabies vaccination before entering the U.S.

Footnote 2: Titer test failures are not uncommon. There are several reasons for titer failures which include, for example, a rabies vaccine that had expired, was not stored properly, or was not administered properly; a blood sample that was improperly stored or handled; and some dogs have a weak or slow immune response to the vaccine.

FLYING WITH YOUR DOG

➤ Can my dog arrive at any U.S. airport?

No. You can only arrive at one of the U.S. airports with a CDC-registered animal care facility (and dogs cannot enter the U.S. at land border crossings). No other U.S. domestic flights or connections are permitted until *after* your dog has been released by the animal care facility at your first U.S. port of entry. As of this writing, the available U.S. airports include New York (JFK), Philadelphia (PHL), Washington D.C. (IAD), Atlanta (ATL), Miami (MIA) and Los Angeles (LAX).

➤ Can I apply for a reservation at the animal care facility without having purchased my airline ticket?

You do NOT need to purchase an airline ticket before submitting your reservation request, but you do need to have determined a possible itinerary and U.S. arrival date. Because space is limited at the facilities, especially during heavy travel and holiday times of the year, you may not be able to enter the U.S. on your preferred travel date and you may need to arrive at a different port of entry. For these reasons, you do not want to purchase an airline ticket before making sure that the facility of your choice will have space available for your dog, unless your ticket is fully refundable and/or can be changed with minimal fees.

➤ Can my dog fly with me in the aircraft cabin or as excess checked baggage in the cargo hold? Can my dog fly *without* me as a cargo shipment?

Your dog can fly any of these three ways as long as the airline allows it and the CDC-registered animal care facility can receive dogs arriving these ways. Check with both the airline and animal care facility before committing to a transport method.

➤ Can someone other than the dog's owner travel with a dog into the U.S.?

Yes, the owner can designate another person to fly with his/her dog, there are currently no restrictions or conditions on who can accompany dogs into the U.S.

➤ What happens when I arrive at the U.S. airport?

Although individual airports may differ to some extent, the following is generally how it works, except at LAX where arrivals are handled differently.

After landing at the U.S. port of entry, typically all passengers first pass through a U.S. customs and border station where their personal documents are checked and where you will declare that you are traveling with a dog. You are then directed to a secondary border station/office where your dog's import documents are reviewed, and the officer contacts the animal care facility to pick up your dog. An officer will escort you to the baggage claim area where the animal care facility will arrive to take your dog to their facility. You can retrieve your dog from the oversized baggage area but not remove him/her from the crate (the facility will provide water and food once the dog arrives at the facility). You then exit the airport and pick up your dog directly from the facility after they have contacted you to confirm that the exam, revaccination and U.S. customs clearance have been completed.

ADVANCE RESERVATION AT A CDC-REGISTERED ANIMAL CARE FACILITY

➤ **Is processing my dog through a CDC-registered facility optional?**

No. All foreign-vaccinated dogs present in high-risk countries within 6 months of arrival **MUST** be examined and revaccinated at a CDC-registered animal care facility, there are no exceptions. This step **is not optional** even if you have completed all the necessary tests, exams and import documents for your dog.

➤ **How much will it cost?**

The animal care facilities are private businesses not owned or operated by the CDC, therefore each facility sets its own pricing. The facility staff act as your liaison with the USDA veterinarian (who is responsible for your dog's exam and revaccination) and the CDC for final clearance so that you are reunited with your dog as soon as possible.

The total cost will depend on which facility you choose to use, which additional charges apply to your reservation (e.g., weekend arrivals) and which optional services you select (if any). Current costs for only the CDC-required services total approximately **\$1,000 - \$1,700 USD**. These prices typically include customs brokerage fees to clear your dog through U.S. customs but not at every facility, in which case you also need to hire a customs broker or ask the facility to provide a broker for you. Some facilities maintain price lists on their websites, and price quotes are generally available upon request.

➤ **How do I submit a reservation request?**

The CDC-registered animal care facilities are listed here together with their contact information: <https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/approved-care-facilities.html>. Some facilities provide online reservation request forms on their websites, others handle requests by email or phone. If you have a limited time window to arrive in the U.S., you can call the facility and ask if it is possible for them to accommodate you on short notice, but this entirely depends on whether space is available.

➤ **What is required to request a reservation?**

The information required by each facility may vary, but at a minimum you will need: a *Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip* document completed by your vet (or a draft), laboratory report on the rabies titer test (unless you plan to quarantine your dog for 28 days at the facility upon arrival), *CDC Dog Import Form*, and photos of your dog and the dog's teeth (for age evaluation, see example on page 30). Other medical records and/or evidence of additional vaccinations may be required by the facility (such as distemper, bordetella, etc.).

➤ **Do I need a customs broker to clear my dog through U.S. customs after revaccination?**

Yes, a customs broker is required to clear your dog through U.S. customs, just as every person entering the U.S. must be cleared through customs. A customs broker is an individual or business licensed to perform customs clearance services. Some of the animal care facilities include this brokerage service in their base service fee (using their customs broker), or you can request that the facility provide this service for an added fee.

➤ **How long will my dog need to stay at the facility before being released for pick-up?**

This entirely depends on what day and time your dog arrives and the operations of each facility. Generally speaking, dogs that arrive in the morning on weekdays (not a holiday) can be cleared the same day, although this depends on whether the CDC requires more information/tests and how promptly the CDC clears dogs after examination and revaccination. Dogs arriving in the afternoon may not be cleared until the following day, so plan to spend at least one night before your dog is released. Dogs arriving late on Friday stay over the weekend until the next business day.

➤ **When will I receive confirmation of my reservation?**

Once the facility receives a reservation request with all the required documentation, their staff review it and also submit all paperwork to the CDC for its review and clearance. Once that process has been completed, the facility and CDC will provide confirmation of the reservation. You may receive an initial communication from the facility indicating that space is available for your arrival date, but *official confirmation* of the reservation will be sent at some point closer to your arrival date. The timeline for this can vary significantly depending on a number of factors, there is no prescribed confirmation schedule or deadline. **The reservation confirmation must be presented to the airline at check-in for departure.**

Links: CDC main website for foreign-vaccinated dogs in high-risk countries

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/foreign-vaccinated-high-risk-countries.html>

***Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip* document and instructions**

https://www.cdc.gov/importation/pdf/347457A_FRM_NCEZID_Foreign_vacc_dog-508.pdf

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/hcp/dog-importation/instructions-completing-the-certification-of-foreign-rabies-vaccination-and-microchip-form.html>

***CDC Dog Import Form* and instructions**

<https://cdc-786687.workflowcloud.com/forms/090dc543-7b2f-4538-b2c7-2919d12ecc73>

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/dog-import-form-instructions.html>

Other CDC websites:

High-risk country listing

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/high-risk-countries.html>

CDC-registered animal care facilities

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/approved-care-facilities.html>

CDC-approved laboratories for rabies titer testing

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/approved-labs.html>

CDC frequently asked questions

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/faqs.html>

CDC information for veterinarians

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/hcp/dog-importation/index.html>

USDA/APHIS website for dog imports

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/another-country-to-us-import/dogs>

SECTION 3

Checklist of Key Tasks, Documents and Dates

This spreadsheet can be used as a simple checklist, or you can use it to also determine and record the dates associated with tasks and documents which will help you to schedule various appointments and identify a possible date of U.S. arrival.

This column identifies tasks and documents with specific timing requirements.

print this checklist in **landscape format**

	Check if Completed	* Earliest Possible Completion Date	Planned or Scheduled Date	Notes
TARGET U.S. ARRIVAL DATE ----->	✓			
<u>TASKS</u>				
• Microchip implanted or confirmed				confirm that microchip is readable with a universal scanner, your vet can check this
• Rabies vaccination (after microchip placed)				
dog's very first vaccination				must be on or after 12 weeks of age
* or *				
most recent booster vaccination				
expiration date of current vaccination				check that expiry is after U.S. arrival date
• Rabies titer test (if you choose to submit one)				
blood sample drawn by veterinarian		*		* vet may need to wait 30 days before drawing the blood sample, refer to criteria for titer test on pages 16-17
blood sample sent to CDC-approved laboratory				ask vet to expedite shipment to lab if time is short
test report received and result checked				titer result must be equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/mL
28-day waiting period after blood sample draw to enter the U.S.		*		* calculate to be 28 days from date of blood sample
• Reservation at CDC-registered animal care facility				
reservation request submitted				request reservation 30 - 45 days in advance of arrival
reservation confirmed by facility				
expected date of dog's release				

TARGET U.S. ARRIVAL DATE ----->

DOCUMENTS

- **CDC import documents**

- *Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination & Microchip*

signed by examining veterinarian

government veterinarian endorsement

- *CDC Dog Import Form*

Form completed and CDC receipt received

information on form rechecked before departure

- **Departing country EXPORT documents, if required**

- *Export health certificate*

issued/signed by examining veterinarian

endorsed by authorized government office

- *Export permit*

issued by authorized government office

- **Airline health certificate (fit-to-travel), if required**

- **USDA free-of-screwworm certificate, if required**

Check if Completed	* Earliest Possible Completion Date	Planned or Scheduled Date	Notes
✓			
			submit copy to animal care facility when endorsed
	*		* calculate to be 30 days prior to U.S. arrival
			submit copy of receipt to animal care facility
			for dogs less than one year old - take photo within 15 days of U.S. arrival
			make sure U.S. airport and departure date are correct
	*		* determine necessary timing
	*		* determine necessary timing
	*		* determine necessary timing
	*		* typically required within 10 days of departure -- airlines may accept export health certificate instead
	*		* calculate to be 5 days prior to departure -- may be part of your country's export process

* **calculation note:** To determine waiting time for the blood sample and U.S. entry, the first day after the vaccination/blood sample draw is day number 1. You can use the second part of this date calculator to check the number of days.

<https://www.calculator.net/date-calculator.html>

SECTION 4

Step Through the CDC Dog Import Process



Step through the CDC dog import process

➤ **How do I begin the import process?**

1. Read through all of the **CDC and other dog import requirements** so that you are generally familiar with what is needed. Gather together the documentation you have on your dog's medical records and vaccination certificates.

2. **U.S. port of entry airport**

Determine which U.S. port of entry with a CDC-registered animal care facility you prefer to use for arrival in the U.S. (as of this writing, the available U.S. airports include New York (JFK), Philadelphia (PHL), Washington D.C. (IAD), Atlanta (ATL), Miami (MIA) and Los Angeles (LAX)). Be prepared with a second/third choice in case the animal care facility at your preferred airport does not have space available on your travel date. Check whether the facility accepts dogs transported in the cabin, as excess checked baggage and/or shipped as cargo, depending on how you would like your dog to travel.

3. **Animal care facilities** <https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/approved-care-facilities.html>

Review information about the reservation process and other details of the CDC-registered animal care facility at your preferred U.S. port of entry, in particular the timing of reservation requests (at least 30 – 45 days may be necessary at many facilities). If you wish to obtain cost estimates, contact the facilities to request those quotes. Call the facility if you have questions about their process or available space if you are on a tight timeline. For Miami arrivals, you will need to hire a customs broker to clear your dog through U.S. customs after revaccination.

4. **Airlines**

Begin researching which airlines transport dogs to your preferred airport, as some airlines do not transport dogs from high-risk countries or only offer flights to certain U.S. airports. Note that the CDC requires that you arrive *directly* at the airport where you have a reservation at the animal care facility (transiting through airports in other countries, except Canada, is possible prior to arrival in the U.S., but entry at U.S. land border crossings is not allowed). Carefully review all of the airline's policies for pet travel to determine whether your dog can fly in the cabin with you, as excess checked baggage or shipped as cargo (manifest cargo is very expensive), as not every airline allows dogs to be transported all three ways. Check to see if the airline suspends flying dogs during months of the year with especially high or low temperatures, over a certain number of hours flight time, has any breed restrictions, size restrictions, holiday period embargoes, or any other limitation on transporting dogs.

5. **Export requirements**

Although not part of the CDC dog import process, research what EXPORT requirements, if any, must be met for your dog to leave the country of departure. Many countries require export permits and/or veterinary exams/treatments before your dog departs for the U.S. Pay careful attention to when these requirements are to be completed, as some may have a short validity period before your departure date.

6. USDA/APHIS requirements

Determine whether any USDA requirements apply to the departure country, and what, if any, health certificates will be needed for entry to the U.S. (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/another-country-to-us-import/dogs>) Some exporting countries may include these USDA requirements in their export process.

7. Requirements checklist

A checklist of the import requirements is provided in Section 3 with required completion times so that you can more easily schedule veterinary appointments at the appropriate times and identify a possible U.S. arrival date(s) which is needed to make a reservation at the animal care facility serving your preferred U.S. airport.

8. U.S. lodging and transportation

Begin planning for lodging and transportation while at the U.S. port of entry and on route to your final U.S. destination. Note that not all U.S. domestic airlines transport dogs within the U.S.

➤ **Are the CDC import documents available in other languages?**

The *Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip* form and instructions are only available in English and must be completed in English (or accompanied by a certified translation). Note that the information provided on this document primarily consists of names, addresses, numbers and dates that are the same in many languages, so no translation may be needed, and you can also help your vet complete the form in English. The other import document, *CDC Dog Import Form*, is available in both English and Spanish. If completed in Spanish, the receipt you receive after submitting the form is provided in both languages. Other documents such as the rabies titer test report must also be completed in English (or accompanied by a certified translation).

➤ **About microchips**

All dogs entering the U.S. are required to have an ISO-compatible microchip which simply means that the chip has to be readable by a universal scanner, or the owner needs to have a scanner that can read the microchip. Any brand of microchip is acceptable if it is readable. Although a microchip is, literally a small thing, for dogs from high-risk countries it can make the difference between a problem-free importation and a very expensive one.

The absence of a readable microchip or the lack of evidence of when a microchip was placed will invalidate any and all rabies vaccinations (and titer tests) the dog received prior to a verifiable microchip placement. A documented microchip is the only way for the CDC to reasonably ensure that a dog that received vaccinations is in fact the same dog entering the U.S.

There is no specific age or requirement on when a microchip must be placed other than that there must be evidence of a readable microchip that was placed **before the veterinarian administers a rabies vaccination** in order for that vaccination to be acceptable for CDC dog import purposes. The microchip has to be clearly documented in the dog's medical records and on the CDC import documents. If your dog has an old microchip not readable by a universal scanner, your veterinarian can place a second ISO-compatible microchip.

Follow the steps below to proceed through the CDC import process for foreign-vaccinated dogs from high-risk countries – **note that these steps do not include** any additional tasks necessary for export requirements of the departure country, airline transport requirements and USDA compliance.

Step 1: Will your dog be at least 6 months of age upon arrival in the U.S.?

Yes – go to next step

No – CAUTION, you can not enter the U.S. until your dog is at least 6 months of age, there are no exceptions to this age restriction. Flag for the animal care facility if you will be submitting a reservation request when your dog is under 6 months of age but will be at least 6 months of age upon arrival in the U.S.

Step 2: Does your dog have a microchip?

Yes – go to next step

No – your veterinarian will need to microchip your dog in step 12

Step 3: Is your dog's microchip ISO-compatible, meaning is it readable by a universal chip scanner?

Yes – go to next step (your veterinarian can determine if the chip can be read)

No – you will need to have your vet implant an ISO-compatible microchip (or you need to bring with you a chip reader for the non-compatible microchip when entering the U.S.)

Step 4: Has your dog received a valid rabies vaccination administered after 12 weeks of age by a licensed veterinarian in any country?

Valid rabies vaccinations are only those that are administered on or at any time after a microchip is placed. If the veterinarian cannot determine the date a microchip was placed, the date the microchip is first recorded in veterinary records is used.

Yes – go to next step

No – unvaccinated dogs are not allowed to enter the U.S., your veterinarian must first vaccinate your dog in step 12

Step 5: Has the rabies vaccination expired or will it expire before arriving in the U.S.?

Yes – your dog must be given a rabies booster vaccination by your veterinarian in step 12

No - go to next step

Step 6: Do you plan to submit a rabies titer test to avoid a 28-day quarantine upon U.S. arrival?

Yes – go to next step

No - skip step 7 and go to step 8

Step 7: Do you already have a valid rabies titer test report from a CDC-approved lab received in a prior year?

To determine if your titer test is acceptable for CDC import purposes, consult with your veterinarian who will make that determination or confirm your assessment (from page 16-17).

Yes -- go to next step

No -- your veterinarian can draw a blood sample for the titer test in step 13 or at a later date if a 30-day waiting period applies

Step 8: Schedule an appointment with your veterinarian as early as possible to begin the task of completing exams, tests and import documents.

NOTE: If you are certain that your dog already has a valid rabies vaccination and a valid rabies titer test result (if you plan to provide one), you can wait to visit your vet until 30 days prior to U.S. arrival to complete the *Certification of Foreign Rabies and Microchip* document, because this document is valid for only 30 days after it is signed by the examining veterinarian (but check whether you may need to visit your vet earlier to meet export requirements).

Step 9: If you wish to obtain cost estimates from the CDC-registered animal care facilities, contact them to request those quotes. Call them if you also have initial questions about their process or available space.

Step 10: Begin gathering the information, documents and photos needed to complete a reservation request at your chosen animal care facility.

- *Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip* - this document is only valid for 30 calendar days from the date the examining veterinarian signs it. If outside 30 days from arrival, the animal care facility may ask that you provide a draft of this document that you can fill in yourself (see form and instructions on page 18)
- *CDC Dog Import Form* – this form can be completed early but must be refiled before departure if anything changes such as port of entry or arrival date (see form and instructions on page 23) – note that for dogs under one year of age, the CDC indicates that the photo for this form should be taken within 15 days of U.S. arrival.
- a copy of the rabies titer test report from a CDC-approved laboratory once received
- front and side photos of your dog
- photos of your dog's teeth (see last page of this document for sample photos)

Step 11: Once you have determined a possible arrival date, submit a reservation request to your chosen animal care facility.

Make sure that you take into account any date and time zone differences between the country of departure and the U.S. port of entry.

Step 12: Take your dog to the scheduled appointment with your veterinarian to do the following:

Bring current and past rabies vaccination certificates with you and a rabies titer test report if you already have one.

- 1) confirm your dog's age (must be at least 6 months of age upon U.S. entry)
- 2) read the dog's microchip with a universal scanner and confirm the chip number -OR- implant an ISO-compatible microchip if your dog does not have one
- 3) administer an initial rabies vaccination (if your dog is unvaccinated) - note that dogs must be at least 12 weeks of age for an initial vaccination to be valid

- OR -

administer a rabies booster vaccination if one is needed or the current vaccination will expire before arriving in the U.S.

- 4) if you plan to provide a rabies titer test and do not already have an acceptable test report, the veterinarian will draw a blood sample (if it can be drawn at this time under the rules – see footnote 3) and submit it to a CDC-approved laboratory for processing

You may want to ask the vet to expedite shipment and/or processing of the blood sample if the lab is in another country or time is an important factor. Currently only 11 high-risk countries have CDC-approved labs.

- 5) if it is within 30 days of your U.S. arrival date, the veterinarian can complete and sign the import document ***Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip***

if not within 30 days of your U.S. arrival date, schedule another appointment for the veterinarian to complete this task, **as this import document is only valid for 30 days**

- 6) ask the veterinarian if there are any export requirements in your country

Step 13: Endorsement by the departure country's official government veterinarian (footnote 4)

Ask your veterinarian how to obtain endorsement by the official government veterinarian.

Step 14: Submit the endorsed *Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip* document and receipt for the *CDC Dog Import Form* to the animal care facility

Some airlines also require submission of these documents in advance of departure for review.

Footnote 3: If this is the dog's very first rabies vaccination, the first vaccination after a microchip was placed, or it has not been 30 days from a recent valid vaccination, the veterinarian cannot draw a blood sample for the rabies titer test until **30 days after a valid vaccination**, so you will need to schedule another appointment for the blood draw.

Footnote 4: The official government veterinarian is the exporting country's veterinarian(s) who performs work on behalf of the government and can verify that the veterinarian completing the CDC import document is licensed to practice veterinary medicine in that country. The office of an official government veterinarian is typically part of the government department responsible for health regulations applying to the import/export of live animals.

Step 15: Have you received the rabies titer test report showing a passing titer value equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/mL?

Yes – go to next step

No – WAIT, you must have the titer test report BEFORE arriving in the U.S. to avoid a 28-day quarantine requirement

Step 16: Have you received official confirmation of your reservation at the CDC-registered animal care facility? If not, follow up with the facility, as your dog will not be allowed on your flight without that confirmation.


Step 17: DEPARTURE FOR THE U.S.

Make sure you have all the required documents before departure. Print two copies of the documents to present to the airline agent at check-in and U.S. border agents upon arrival in the U.S.

At or before check-in, the airline will confirm that:

- 1) you have a CDC receipt obtained by submitting the *CDC Dog Import Form*
- 2) the U.S. port of entry and arrival date on the *CDC Dog Import Form* are correct
- 3) you have confirmation of your reservation at the CDC-registered animal care facility
- 4) you have any export documents (if required)

If you do not have these documents, the airline is required to refuse boarding your dog.

Step 18: U.S. Arrival – You Made It ! 

The animal care facility will provide instructions on the process to follow when you land at your U.S. port of entry. It typically follows the process described in the question at the bottom of page 5, except for arrivals in Los Angeles (LAX) which may follow a different process. Once your dog is revaccinated, the veterinarian will give you a new rabies vaccination certificate with a new date when the next vaccination is due.

TIP: If you will be spending a portion of your time in the U.S. in the future and do not already have a local veterinarian, you may wish to choose a USDA-accredited vet (not all vets are USDA-accredited), because only accredited vets can issue USDA-endorsed export certificates and the *Certification of U.S.-issued Rabies Vaccination* document which will be needed to return your dog to the U.S. from high-risk countries. Here is how to find a USDA-accredited vet:

<https://vsapps.aphis.usda.gov/vsps/public/VetSearch.do>

SECTION 5

Attachments

Criteria for Rabies Titer Test

Titer tests from CDC-approved labs are valid for the **life of the dog** as long as certain criteria are met. Determining whether a current or prior titer test can be used for CDC import purposes is **essential**, because without an acceptable titer test, your dog is required to quarantine for 28 days in the U.S.

Below are the criteria that must be met.

1) **CDC-approved laboratory**

The test must be performed by a CDC-approved laboratory. Confirm that the laboratory is included in the list at this link: <https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/approved-labs.html> Note that there are only 11 high-risk countries with approved labs, so your sample may have to be sent to a lab in another country to be processed.

If not from one of these approved laboratories, your rabies titer test will not be accepted for CDC import purposes and you must obtain a new titer test.

2) **Passing titer test result**

A passing titer test is one showing a titer value equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/mL. This value will be clearly shown on the lab report.

If the titer result is not at or above this level, your rabies titer test has failed and the test must be repeated. To obtain a new titer test, your dog must be revaccinated and have another blood sample after revaccination (it is recommended to wait at least 14 days between revaccination and when the new blood sample is drawn).

3) **30-day waiting period – Caution!**

The blood sample for a titer test must be drawn at least 30 days after either: 1) a current (unexpired) rabies vaccination administered on or after 12 weeks of age, or 2) a vaccination administered prior to the current vaccination as long as there is no gap between these two vaccinations. See next page for note on how to calculate the 30 days.

This waiting period is critical, because if the sample is drawn in less than 30 days, the blood sample and associated titer test will not be accepted, and the titer test must be repeated.

4) **No gaps in vaccinations after the blood sample**

If the above three criteria are met, the last step is to **confirm that there is no gap between all vaccinations on which the blood sample is based**. If there is any gap between vaccinations, even for just one day, the titer test will not be accepted and must be repeated. To obtain a new test, your dog must be revaccinated and a blood sample drawn at least 30 days after the new vaccination.

Historical vaccinations and any gaps that may have occurred are irrelevant unless you have a titer test from a number of years ago and wish to use it for import purposes. Otherwise, you need recent rabies vaccinations with no gaps and at least one of those vaccinations was administered at least 30 days before the blood sample is drawn.

To avoid an expensive 28-day quarantine, It is essential that your veterinarian review your dog's rabies vaccination documentation to determine whether it will be accepted for U.S. importation or to confirm your own assessment. **** SKIP THIS PAGE **** if you want your veterinarian to determine whether your titer test can be used for CDC import purposes.

Use the table below to document your dog's rabies vaccinations for review.

Enter date for **line 3** and then enter all other dates (if there is no vaccination on line 1 or 6, enter none)

1	Administration date of the rabies vaccination (if any) immediately <u>prior to</u> the vaccination on line # 3 below	_____	1
2	Expiration date of vaccination on line # 1 above	_____	2
3	Administration date of the vaccination that was <i>current</i> when the blood sample was drawn (line 4) for the titer test	_____	3
4	Date the blood sample was drawn for the rabies titer test	_____	4
5	Expiration date of the vaccination on line # 3 above	_____	5
6	Administration date of 1st vaccination (if any), <i>after</i> the blood sample was drawn	_____	6
7	Expiration date of vaccination on line # 6	_____	7
8	Date your dog will arrive in the U.S. **	_____	8

no
gap

no
gap

B

A

** If more than one vaccination after the blood sample was drawn is needed (after line 7) to reach the U.S. arrival date on line 8, continue checking that there are no gaps between the subsequent vaccinations.

A – If this period between the vaccination that was current at the time of the blood draw and the date when the blood sample was drawn by the vet is at least 30 days, the wait time requirement is met and you can continue with lines 5 – 8 (lines 1 and 2 are not needed).

B – If the period in **A** is less than 30 days, then check the previous vaccination (line 1). If the period from this previous vaccination to the date of the blood draw (line 4) is at least 30 days AND there is no gap between this previous vaccination and the vaccination on line 3, the wait time requirement has been met and you can proceed with lines 5 – 8.

Calculation note: To determine the 30-day wait time for the blood sample to be drawn after vaccination, the first day after the vaccination is administered is day number 1. You can use the second part of this date calculator to check the number of days. <https://www.calculator.net/date-calculator.html>

Add to or Subtract from a Date

Start Date Jun 12 2025

0 years
0 months
0 weeks
30 days

☐ calculate in business days

Calculate

Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip document

(to be completed by your veterinarian)

Link: https://www.cdc.gov/importation/pdf/347457A_FRM_NCEZID_Foreign_vacc_dog-508.pdf

IMPORTANT: Sections A – F of this document must be completed online **using the fillable form or typed**, except for the veterinarian's signature which can be handwritten. Documents with handwritten fields in these sections will not be accepted. **Section G** can be handwritten but all fields must be completed including email and telephone number.

All dates must be in the format mm/dd/yyyy (month, day, year)

Some countries have an approved variation of this form.

Page 1 of 2



Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip (for Live Dog Importations into the United States)

This form must be completed by the examining veterinarian not more than 30 days before travel.
Endorsement by an official government veterinarian is required for the form to be valid.
THIS FORM MUST BE TYPED.

OMB Approval Number: 0920-1383
Form Expires: 5/31/2027

SECTION A: NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND EMAIL OF OWNER (CONSIGNOR)

Name:
Organization (if applicable):
Address: City:
Region/State: Zip Code (if in U.S.):
Phone Number (including country area code): Email address:

SECTION B: NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND EMAIL OF RECIPIENT AT U.S. DESTINATION (CONSIGNEE)

☐ Select if information is the same as section A

Name:
Organization (if applicable):
U.S. Address (cannot be PO Box):
City: Region/State: Zip Code (if in U.S.):
Phone Number (including country and/or area code): Email address:

SECTION C: ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

ANIMAL NAME	ISO-COMPLIANT MICROCHIP NUMBER	ISO-COMPLIANT MICROCHIP IMPLANT DATE* (MM/DD/YYYY)	BREED	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH OR AGE (MM/DD/YYYY)	COLOR/MARKINGS
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

*If implant date unknown, input earliest date when ISO-compliant microchip is documented on dog's medical/vaccination records.

SECTION D: RABIES VACCINE INFORMATION (INCLUDE 3 MOST RECENT RABIES VACCINES, IF APPLICABLE)

PRODUCT NAME	MANUFACTURER	LOT NUMBER	PRODUCT EXPIRATION DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)	DATE OF VACCINATION (MM/DD/YYYY)	DATE NEXT VACCINATION IS DUE (MM/DD/YYYY)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

SECTION E: RABIES SEROLOGY INFORMATION (IF AVAILABLE)**

LABORATORY NAME	LOCATION OF LABORATORY (COUNTRY)	DATE SAMPLE WAS COLLECTED (MM/DD/YYYY)	DATE SAMPLE WAS TESTED (MM/DD/YYYY)	RESULT (IU/ML)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**Rabies serology results should be submitted with this form for certification by the official government veterinarian. The official government veterinarian must certify the serology results are from a CDC-approved laboratory.

☐ Select if no serology results are included with this form[†]

[†]Dogs entering the United States without a valid rabies serology result or with results less than 0.5 IU/mL are subject to a 28-day quarantine at a CDC-registered animal care facility at the importer's expense. Importers of dogs from DMRVV-free or low-risk countries may, in lieu of serology results, present veterinary records for veterinary services completed in the dog rabies-free or low-risk country at least six months prior to traveling to the United States.

Public reporting burden of this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to CDC/ATSDR Reports Clearance Officer, 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS D-74, Atlanta, Georgia 30333; ATTN: PRA 0920-1383

CS350493-A 12/02/2024

ANIMAL NAME: _____

ISO-COMPLIANT MICROCHIP NUMBER: _____

SECTION F: EXAMINING[±] VETERINARIAN CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

1. I am authorized to practice veterinary medicine in the country of export.
2. I have verified the presence of an ISO-compliant microchip in the animal and the microchip number listed on this form is true and correct.
3. I have examined the animal presented to me and based on that examination I reasonably believe the animal to be over six months of age.
4. I have examined the animal presented to me and find that the age, breed, sex, and description of the animal listed on this form is true and correct, and matches the information documented on the animal's rabies vaccination certificate.
5. I reasonably believe, based on my examination of the animal presented to me, that it appears at this time to be healthy and free of infectious or contagious diseases, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, has not been exposed to any infectious or contagious diseases in the past 30 days that would endanger the health of humans or other animals.
6. I reasonably believe, based on either having personally administered or supervised the administration of the vaccine, or based on my review of the relevant documentation, that (select one):
 - ☐ The initial rabies vaccine was administered on or after 12 weeks (84 days) of age; or
 - ☐ The rabies vaccine was administered on or after 60 weeks (15 months) of age and the owner had proof of at least one previous rabies vaccination
7. I have truthfully recorded the animal's complete rabies vaccination history for the past 3 years on this form.
8. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the animal listed on this form is not from an area under quarantine for rabies and has not been exposed to rabies in the past 30 days.
9. I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the dog's veterinary medical information (Sections C-E) submitted herein is complete and accurate.

SIGNATURE OF EXAMINING[±] VETERINARIAN THAT INSPECTED THE DOG:*I certify that all information provided on this form is true and accurate.*

Printed Name and Title: _____

Address of Veterinarian: _____

City: _____

Region/State: _____

Country: _____

Telephone (including country code): _____

Email address: _____

License Number of Examining Veterinarian: _____

Date[±] (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Veterinarian's Signature: _____

[±] The examining veterinarian must be authorized by the competent authority to practice veterinary medicine in the exporting country or be an official government veterinarian.^{*} This certificate is valid for travel into the United States for 30 days from the date of examination.**SECTION G: ENDORSEMENT BY OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT VETERINARIAN IN EXPORTING COUNTRY**

1. I certify that the veterinarian listed above holds a valid license to practice veterinary medicine in the country of export.
2. I certify I have reviewed all health records, microchip information, vaccination documents, and serology documents (if available) accompanying the animal and they are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
3. Serology documents, if submitted, are from a [CDC-approved laboratory](#).
4. I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the dog's veterinary medical information (Sections C-E) submitted herein is complete and accurate.

I certify that all information provided on this form is true and accurate.

ANIMAL NAME: _____

ISO-COMPLIANT MICROCHIP NUMBER: _____

Printed Name and Title: _____

Address of Official Government Veterinarian: _____

City: _____

Region/State: _____

Country: _____

Email address: _____

Date (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Official Government Veterinarian's Signature: _____

Upload electronic government seal or affix wet seal here (required):

UPLOAD SEAL

Veterinarian Instructions for Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip

Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/importation/hcp/dog-importation/instructions-completing-the-certification-of-foreign-rabies-vaccination-and-microchip-form.html>

Overview

Foreign veterinarians must complete this document for any dog that has been in a country with a high-risk of dog rabies in the past 6 months before it enters the United States. This is the only government-endorsed form required for foreign vaccinated dogs coming from a high-risk country. This form is valid for entry for 30 days from the date of issuance listed in [Section F](#). All information on the form must be typed.

Section A: Owner or Consigner Contact Information

- Enter the full name of the owner or consignor.
- Enter the physical address of the owner or consignor.
- Enter the direct dial phone number (including extension if applicable) of the owner or consignor.
- Enter the email address of the owner or consignor.

Section B: Owner or Consignee Contact Information

Important:

The address in Section B must be in the United States.

- If all information in Section A is the same as section B:
 - Check the box "Select if information is same as section A."
 - Leave section B blank and move to Section C of the form.
- If any information in Section B is different from the information in Section A, complete section B:
 - Enter the full name of the recipient of the dog.
 - Enter the physical address (no PO Boxes) of where the dog will be housed in the United States.
 - Enter the direct dial phone number (including extension if applicable) of the recipient of the dog.
 - Enter the email address of the recipient of the dog (consignee).

Section C: Animal Identification

- Enter the animal's name.
- Enter the microchip and the date the microchip was implanted. If the implant date is unknown, input earliest date when the microchip is documented on the dog's medical/vaccination records. The microchip must be readable by a universal microchip scanner, and the microchip must have been implanted before the rabies vaccination was administered.
- Enter the dog's breed and sex.
- Enter the dog's date of birth using the mm/dd/yyyy [\[A\]](#) format or age if the date of birth is unknown.
- Enter the dog's color or note any distinguishable markings on the dog.

Note:

The microchip must be readable by a universal microchip scanner. The microchip must have been implanted before the rabies vaccination was administered.

Instructions for Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip (continued)

Section D: Rabies Vaccine Information

The veterinarian must document at a minimum a current rabies vaccination. The microchip must have been implanted before the rabies vaccine was administered or the vaccine will be invalid. If the importer is presenting a valid rabies serology titer (so the dog does not need to undergo a 28-day quarantine after arrival), the veterinarian must also document a rabies vaccination administered at least 30 days before the serology was drawn, and all rabies vaccinations administered after the dog's rabies serology was drawn, to prove that vaccination coverage has not lapsed. If there is insufficient space on the *Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip* form, additional copies of *Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip* form should be used.

- Enter the rabies vaccine product name, manufacturer, lot (serial) number, and product expiration date using the mm/dd/yyyy [A] format.
- Enter the date the dog was vaccinated against rabies using the mm/dd/yyyy [A] format.
- Enter the date the next vaccination is due using the mm/dd/yyyy [A] format.

Section E: Rabies Serology Information (if available)

Rabies serology results from a [CDC-approved laboratory](#), if available, must be submitted with this form for certification by the official government veterinarian.

- If the owner or consignor provides rabies serology results:
 - Enter the laboratory name and country where the lab is located.
 - Confirm the results from a [CDC-approved laboratory](#). If the serology results are not from a CDC-approved laboratory, check the box "select if no serology results are included with this form."
 - Enter the date the sample was collected using the mm/dd/yyyy [A] format.
 - Enter the date the sample was tested using the mm/dd/yyyy [A] format.
 - Enter the result reported by the laboratory including units.
- If the owner or consignor did not provide rabies serology results for review:
 - Check box "select if no serology results are included with this form."

Note:

If the serology results are not from a CDC-approved laboratory or the consignor did not provide rabies serology results for review, check the box next to "select if no serology results are included with this form."

Approved Rabies Serology Laboratories for Testing Dogs

Instructions for **Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip** (continued)

Section F: Examining Veterinarian Certification Statement and Signature

Note:

This form is valid for entry for 30 days from the date of issuance listed in Section F. All responses on the form must be typed.



This form **MUST** be completed and signed by the veterinarian who examined the dog. The examining veterinarian must be authorized by the competent authority to practice veterinary medicine in the exporting country or be an official government veterinarian.

- Read and verify Section F, statement 1-9.
 - Select the appropriate bullet for statement 6 based on the dog's vaccination records.
- Type your name and title (e.g., associate veterinarian, etc.).
- Type the physical street address including city, region/state, and country of the veterinary clinic or hospital where you work.
- Type the veterinary business' telephone number.
- Type the veterinary business' email address.
- Type the license number of the examining veterinarian.
- Type the date of examination when this form was completed use the mm/dd/yyyy [\[A\]](#) format.
- Electronically sign the form using an authenticated digital signature (e.g., DocuSign).
 - Wet signatures are acceptable in the "veterinarian's signature" block if the document cannot be signed electronically; **however, sections A-F must be typed.**
- Submit the form and all accompanying documentation to the exporting country's official government veterinarian for review and certification.

Section G: Endorsement by Official Government Veterinarian in Exporting Country


- Verify the animal's name and microchip listed on page 2 match the information listed on page 1 of this form.
- If available, review the attached rabies serology results and certify the serology results are: (1) from a [CDC-approved laboratory](#); and (2) greater than or equal to 0.5 IU/mL.
- Read and verify Section G, statements 1-4.
- Print your name and title.
- Enter your physical street address including city, region/state, and country.
- Enter your email address (government email address preferred).
- Enter the date you reviewed and certified the information using the mm/dd/yyyy [\[A\]](#) format.
- Electronically sign the form using an authenticated digital signature (e.g., DocuSign).
 - Wet signatures (non-electronic signatures hand-written with a pen) are acceptable in the "official government veterinarian's signature" block if the document cannot be signed electronically. An official wet seal must be affixed to all forms with wet signatures.
- Affix the government seal electronically or apply a wet seal in the space provided.
- Enter your email address (government email address preferred).

CDC Dog Import Form

The CDC Dog Import Form is a fairly simple form to be completed online shortly before departing for the U.S. You will receive a receipt by email typically within 30 minutes of submission (see sample on page 25) when you submit the form that must be presented to the airline when you check in for your flight and to U.S. border agents when arriving at the U.S. airport.

CDC Dog Import Form

Complete the form online. A receipt will be emailed to you upon submission of the form. You can print the receipt or show it on your phone. Here are [instructions](#) on how to fill out the form.

Complete the form 

Who completes the form?

This form should be completed by the person importing (bringing) the dog into the United States (the importer, owner, or shipper). If you are completing the form on behalf of an importer who has difficulty completing this form, read the statements aloud to the importer and confirm they understand the information provided and agree to the Terms of Acceptance.

How much does it cost?

Free

How many dogs can be included on one form?

Each dog must have its own form. If you are bringing more than one dog to the United States, you must complete a separate form for each dog.

When should the form be completed?

You can fill out the form on the day of travel. We recommend completing it a few days before travel. If anything changes, like date of travel or port of entry, you **must** submit a new form.

What information will I need to complete the form?

Photo of dog

Please upload a recent picture (jpg, png, gif files only) of the dog, showing its face and body. Dogs under one year old should have their photograph taken within 15 days before travel to the U.S.

Microchip number

Make sure to enter the dog's microchip number accurately into this form. You can typically find this number on a dog's veterinary records.

How long is the form's receipt valid?

The receipt is valid for a single entry into the U.S. and is valid for entry only on the date of arrival listed on the receipt. The form can be submitted any time before travel, except for dogs less than one year of age whose photo should be taken within 15 days before travel to the U.S.

How do I show the form's receipt to officials?

CDC Dog Import Form receipt can be printed or shown on a phone screen to U.S. customs officials or airlines (if applicable).

More information


Make sure all the information on the form, including the arrival port for the dog, is accurate before the dog arrives. If any information changes before departure, you will need to submit a new form.

CDC Dog Import Form (continued)

Link: <https://cdc-786687.workflowcloud.com/forms/090dc543-7b2f-4538-b2c7-2919d12ecc73>

Below is the top section of the first page of the form. Make sure to **check YES** in the yellow highlighted section indicating your dog has been in a high-risk country.

In **Section A**, if you will be flying with your dog, select Owner as the person listed. If a family member or friend will be traveling with the dog, select Other. If there is a co-owner (such as spouse or partner), you can include his/her information as the Consignee/Additional Owner so that either you or the co-owner can fly with your dog using the same form.



Dog Import Form

FORM
APPROVED
OMB NO.
0920-1383
EXP DATE
5/31/2027

Fill out one form for each dog you are bringing into the United States. This form may be filled out by the importer or someone else acting on behalf of the importer. **Required fields indicated by a red asterisk (*)**

This form has been updated to accommodate a screen reader or other assistive technology. If you are having difficulty completing this form due to a disability, you or someone acting on your behalf, may contact CDC-INFO at <https://www.cdc.gov/dcs/ContactUs/Form> or by calling 800-232-4636 (TTY 888-232-6348) for assistance.

Has the dog been in a country that is considered a high-risk country for dog rabies in the last six months? *

☒ Yes ☐ No

Please verify using the link [High-Risk Countries for Dog Rabies](#).

Section A - Person Importing the Animal

First Name *

Middle Name/Initial

Last Name *

The person listed above is the: *

☐ Owner ☐ Consignor (shipper) ☐ Flight Parent ☐ Other

Identification Type *

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) *

☐ Passport Number

☐ Drivers License Number

☐ Air Waybill/Bill of lading number

Email *

Confirm Email *

Phone Number *

*You will be sent a receipt at the email address you provide. You must present the receipt to U.S Customs and Border Protection and to the airline if your dog is traveling by air.

Consignee/Recipient of dog/Additional Owner (if different from above)

Email Address

Identification Type

☐ Passport Number

☐ Drivers License Number

CDC Dog Import Form (continued) – Sample Receipt



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC Dog Import Form Receipt: COMPLETE

THIS DOG HAS BEEN IN A HIGH-RISK COUNTRY FOR RABIES IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS. IN ADDITION TO THIS RECEIPT, IMPORTERS MUST PROVIDE:

1. If the dog is foreign-vaccinated: **Contact a CDC-registered animal care facility BEFORE arriving in the United States to make a reservation for examination and rabies vaccination.**
2. If the dog is U.S.-vaccinated, you must have **one** of these two forms:
 - a. A valid Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination form; OR
 - b. A USDA-endorsed export health certificate (valid until the rabies vaccine listed on the certificate expires, as long as the certificate was issued no later than July 31, 2025)

This is your CDC Dog Import Form receipt.

Date of issuance: 03/12/2025

Valid for Date of Arrival: [REDACTED]

This receipt is valid for a dog that has been in a rabies high-risk country in the 6 months before entering the United States. This receipt may be used only for the dog described below for a **single entry** to the United States on the date of arrival listed above.

This receipt **does not guarantee a dog's entry into the United States**. You must show this receipt (printed or on your phone) to airline staff and/or U.S. port of entry officials. Additional documentation must also be shown to airline staff and/or U.S. port of entry officials to verify a dog's eligibility for entry into the United States. CDC reserves the right to take other actions to protect the public's health.

SECTION A: PERSON IMPORTING THE ANIMAL

Name (Owner): [REDACTED]

Passport#/Driver's License: [REDACTED]

Country/Area or State of Issuance: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Consignee/Additional Owner:

Consignee Passport#/Driver's License:

Consignee Country/Area or State of Issuance:

SECTION B: ANIMAL INFORMATION

Name: [REDACTED]

Age: 7 year(s) and 7 month(s)

Sex: Female Neutered

Breed: Yorkshire Terrier

Color: Tan/black

Microchip Number: [REDACTED]

Importation Purpose: Personal Pet (this includes emotional support animals)

SECTION C: TRAVEL INFORMATION

Date of Arrival: [REDACTED]

Country or Area of Departure: [REDACTED]

Travel Type: Air

Carrier and Flight Number: [REDACTED]

How is the animal traveling?: Hand-carried

State and Port of Entry: CA - Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)

Countries or Areas Visited in Past 6 Months: [REDACTED]

Photo of Animal:



Owner/importer Instructions for completing the **CDC DOG IMPORT FORM**

Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/dog-import-form-instructions.html>

Filling out the *CDC Dog Import Form*

This form should be completed by the person importing (bringing) the dog into the United States (the importer, owner, or shipper). If the person importing the dog has difficulty completing this form such as due to a disability, this form may be filled out by someone else acting on behalf of the importer. After you submit this form, a receipt will be sent to the email address you provided. Please check that the email address is correct before submitting the form.

If the dog is traveling by air, you must show the receipt to the airline before boarding.

You must also retain the receipt and be able to show the receipt to U.S. Customs and Border Protection when the dog arrives in the United States.

Important



Select the button indicating whether a dog has been in a country that is considered a high-risk country for dog rabies in the last 6 months. Please verify using the [High-Risk Countries for Dog Rabies](#) list. The answer to this question will determine the remaining information you must enter in the form.

Dogs coming from high-risk countries

The receipt is valid for one dog to enter the United States one time. Complete another *CDC Dog Import Form* and obtain another receipt for future entries or other dogs.

Section A- Person Importing the Animal

Enter information about the person bringing the dog to the United States.

This person may be:

- the dog owner
- the shipper (consignor)
- a flight parent: a person transporting one or more dogs for the purpose of rescue, resale, or adoption on behalf of another person or an organization
- any other person bringing a dog to the United States

Enter the identification information for the person bringing the dog to the United States. You must enter the person's date of birth and one of the following:

- Passport number and select the country or area of issuance from the dropdown menu, OR
- Driver's license number, select U.S. or international license, and select the country, area, or U.S. state of issuance from the dropdown menu, OR
- Air waybill/bill of lading number.

Enter the email address where the receipt for this form should be sent. Ensure this email address is correct as this is where the *CDC Dog Import Form* receipt will be sent when you submit the form.

Physical address where the dog will be located in the United States.

Enter the name of the recipient or consignee of the dog. This is the person who will receive the dog in the United States. **This may be the same person who is traveling with or transporting the dog.** If the recipient or consignee of the dog is different, you must enter that person's email, and passport or driver's license number. You can only list one recipient or consignee per dog.

Enter the street address where the dog will be located after arrival in the United States. For example, this may be the home where the dog lives, or a hotel address if the dog will stay at a hotel. If the dog will be in the United States for a brief period (several hours), enter the address where it will be the majority of the time.

Enter the phone number and email address of the recipient or consignee of the dog.

Owner/importer Instructions for completing the **CDC DOG IMPORT FORM** (continued)

Section B- Animal Information

Enter the dog's name (required)

Enter the age of the dog in years or months.

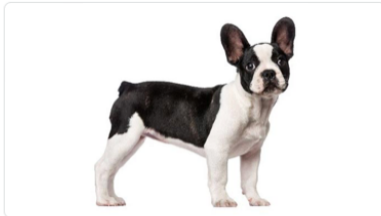
Enter the sex of the dog.

Select the breed of the dog. Select "mixed breed/other" if you cannot find the breed of the dog listed, or if you do not know the breed of the dog.

State the color and markings of the dog.

Enter the microchip number of the dog. If the dog has multiple microchip numbers, enter the microchip number that is readable and documented on the official veterinary documentation accompanying your dog. Contact your veterinarian for assistance if you cannot find your dog's microchip number on its medical records.

Attach a photo of the dog showing its face and body (see example below). Only .jpg, .jpeg, or .png files are accepted. Maximum file size is 1mb. If your file is larger than 1mb or in a different format, you must save the file as one of the acceptable file types and reduce the file size. Dogs less than one year old should have this photo taken within 15 days before they will arrive in the United States.



Example of an acceptable photo showing the face and body of a dog

Select the importation purpose.

Select "Personal Pet" if the dog is a personal pet or emotional support animal.

Select "Commercial" if the dog is being adopted from another country, sold to a person in the United States, being brought to the United States by or on behalf of a rescue organization, or moved to the United States on behalf of a business.

Select "Service animal" only for a dog that meets the definition of a service animal used in federal regulations ([14 CFR 382.3](#)), which states a service animal is "a dog, regardless of breed or type, that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a qualified individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Animal species other than dogs, emotional support animals, comfort animals, companionship animals, and service animals in training are not service animals for the purposes of this part."

If this importation purpose is selected, the service animal must be traveling with the person with a disability whom the dog is trained to assist.

Select "Government-owned" if the dog is a working dog owned by a government agency AND is serving U.S. federal, state, territorial, or local government or a foreign government agency as part of its official duties.

Select "Education, Exhibition, or Research" if the dog is being imported for one of the following reasons:


- teaching of a defined educational program at the university level or equivalent;
- as part of a public display open to the general public during routinely scheduled hours for entertainment in which the dog is trained to perform some behavior or action and is part of a routinely scheduled show, performance, or exhibition, open to the general public; or
- for research following a defined protocol and other standards for research projects as normally conducted at the university level.

Owner/importer Instructions for completing the **CDC DOG IMPORT FORM** (continued)

Section C- Travel Information

Each question that follows will depend upon your answers.

1. Does the dog have either a *Certification of U.S.-issued Rabies Vaccination* form or a USDA-endorsed export health certificate?

The *Certification of U.S.-issued Rabies Vaccination* form must be completed by a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-accredited veterinarian and digitally endorsed by USDA before the dog leaves the United States. USDA-accredited veterinarians can access the form and its instructions at [Veterinary Export Health Certification System \(VEHCS\) Help Page](#) 

If the dog is traveling with a USDA-endorsed export health certificate issued before the dog left the United States, note that it must:

- be digitally endorsed by USDA, and
- contain the dog's microchip number, and
- list the dog's current and valid rabies vaccination information, and
- include the dog's age (showing the dog will be six months of age or older at time of return to the United States), and
- have been issued for travel to the high-risk country from which the dog is returning, and
- have been issued no later than July 31, 2025.

If you have either of those documents because the dog was vaccinated in the United States and the veterinarian provided you with copies endorsed by the USDA, select "yes" to that question then proceed to the "travel type" section.

If the dog does not have a current, valid, U.S. document demonstrating the rabies vaccination, select "no" to that question.

2. If the dog has been in a high-risk country for dog rabies and does not have a U.S.-issued rabies vaccination answer the question: Does the dog have a current and valid *Certification of Foreign-Rabies Vaccination and Microchip* form that has been endorsed by an official government veterinarian of the exporting country?

This is a **required** document for dogs that have been in a high-risk country in the six months before entry to the United States that do not have a current U.S.-issued rabies vaccination.

If you do NOT have this document, you must obtain it from the dog's veterinarian and ensure it is endorsed by an official government veterinarian. Select "yes" once you have this required document then proceed to the "travel type" section.

- If the dog is a foreign-vaccinated dog traveling from a high-risk country, you will only be able to select the ports of entry with a CDC-registered animal care facility, all of which are airports. These are the **ONLY** ports of entry where the dog may enter the United States. You must select the airport with the CDC-registered animal care facility where your dog has a reservation. The only exception to this requirement is for service animals arriving at a U.S. seaport if they meet all entry requirements including a valid rabies serology titer.

Travel Type: Select how the dog will be traveling to the United States (air, land, or sea).

- The options in this field depend upon where the dog has been and where/if the dog was vaccinated. If you cannot view the type of travel or port of entry that you were planning to use, this means that the selections you have made on the form **do not allow** that particular type of travel or arrival location. Please review the requirements at www.cdc.gov/dogtravel.

Owner/importer Instructions for completing the **CDC DOG IMPORT FORM** (continued)


Country or area of departure: Select the country or area from which the dog is departing for the United States.

- This should be the country or area in which the official government veterinarian has endorsed the documents.

Arrival date: Select the date on which the dog will arrive in the United States.

Select all countries and areas the dog has been in during the six months before arriving in the United States.

State and Port of Entry: Select the state and port of entry or Preclearance location where the dog will arrive in the United States or clear U.S. Customs.

- If your dog is eligible to arrive via a [Preclearance port](#)  (only U.S.-vaccinated dogs or dogs from dog rabies-free or low-risk countries), the Preclearance port will appear in the drop-down menu for "State and Port of Entry". Select "International-any preclearance port."

Indicate the carrier and flight number for arrivals by air, the license plate information for arrivals by land, or the vessel name for arrivals by sea.

Indicate how the dog is traveling for dogs arriving by air:

- "Cargo" is for dogs traveling unaccompanied and in the cargo hold, "checked baggage" is for dogs that are in the baggage hold and are traveling with an assigned person on the same flight, and "hand-carried" are those dogs traveling inside the cabin with a person.

Section D- Signature

Read the statements in this section carefully. You are making attestations and statements of understanding that may subject you to penalties, including criminal penalties.

If you are completing the form on behalf of an importer who has difficulty completing this form such as due to a disability, read the statements aloud to the importer and confirm they understand the information provided and agree to the Terms of Acceptance.

Check the box indicating one of two options, either 1) you are the importer and you have read the statements and understand that typing your name constitutes a legal signature or 2) you are authorized to act on behalf of the importer, the information on the form was provided by the importer, and the importer acknowledges and agrees of to the Terms of Acceptance.

For the signature:

- If you are the importer: Type your name: first (given) name, middle initial if you have one, and last name (surname) into the text box. Enter today's date as mm/dd/yyyy.
- If you are acting on behalf of the importer: Type [your name] on behalf of [name of importer]. Enter today's date as mm/dd/yyyy.

Once you are finished entering information and have checked that it is accurate, click the blue box on the lower right that says "**Submit**."

An email should be sent to the email address provided in the next 15 minutes with a receipt. That email will come from DGMQAdminSupport@cdc.gov. If it does not arrive in the inbox, the spam folder may need to be checked.

Please retain a copy of your *CDC Dog Import Form* receipt. You must present the receipt to airline if the dog is traveling by air and U.S. Customs and Border Protection on arrival in the U.S.

PHOTOS OF DOG'S TEETH

These photos are submitted with reservations at the animal care facilities and used by the CDC/USDA veterinarian to evaluate age.

Take two clear photographs of your dog's teeth (make sure the photographs are recent) and include them with your reservation request.

- front view of upper and lower teeth
- side view of upper and lower teeth



Photo credit: Zoonoses Team, CDC