Safe Importation of Dogs and Cats
CDC Pet Import Requirements
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Small Animal Facilities Webinar Series
Federal Governmental Regulatory Agencies
At Ports of Entry

- Livestock and equine health
- Animal welfare

- Zoonotic diseases of public health concern

- CITES *
- Conservation
- Exotics

Animal Health
Public Health
Wildlife Health
Security of Borders
Enforcement at ports of entry

*Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CDC Regulation of Dogs and Cats

42 CFR §71.51

- Focus is on canine rabies virus variant (dog rabies)
- Dogs and cats must appear healthy on arrival
- Rabies vaccination certificate needed for dogs from countries that have high risk of dog rabies
- **Permit** required for dogs from Egypt

*Contact: cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov*

www.CDC.gov/dogtravel
## CDC Entry Requirements for Pets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dogs</th>
<th>Cats</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Healthy</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Valid rabies vaccination certificate</strong> IF from country with high risk of rabies** *</td>
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Map of high-risk countries for dog rabies

List of high-risk countries
Dog Rabies Vaccination Requirements from high-risk countries

at least 12 weeks old before the first rabies vaccination

AND

vaccinated at least 28 days before entry

This means the dog must be at least 16 weeks old when it enters the US.
Rabies Vaccination Certificate from high-risk countries

Must include:

- **OWNER**: name and address
- **DOG**: breed, sex, date of birth (approximate age if DOB unknown), color, markings, other identifying information
- **VACCINE**: Date of rabies vaccination, vaccine product information, Date the vaccination expires
- **VETERINARIAN**: name, license number, address, and signature of veterinarian who administered the vaccine
1. Missing/Improper Dog Paperwork
2. Inadequately Vaccinated (Underage) Dogs
3. Animal arrives sick or dead

**Common Entry Issues**
Missing/Improper Paperwork

• No owner or veterinarian information
• Dog’s name in darker ink, possibly written in on a photocopy of an original document
• No owner address
• Veterinarian did not administer the vaccine
Inadequately Vaccinated Dogs

Illegal puppy imports common. Designer breeds command high prices

- 4.5-6 month old English bulldog
- 5-8 week old French bulldog
- 6-8 week old Lavender French bulldog

www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/operation-dog-catcher.html

Photo credits – CDC quarantine stations
Underage Dogs with False Records

Photo credits: CDC quarantine stations
South Korean Puppy Dead on Arrival

Photo credit: CDC quarantine stations
Sick Dogs Held for Medical Evaluation

Photo credit: CDC quarantine stations
Diseases of Concern
Disease Risk in Imported Pets

Photo credits: Open Source, CDC Rabies Branch, CDC quarantine stations
Diseases of Concern

Rabies

Nearly 100% fatal in mammals without vaccine
Dog rabies causes 99% of human rabies deaths
Over 100 countries are high-risk for dog rabies
Virus spread through saliva from bite or scratch of infected animal
Preventable with vaccine in animals and with post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) in people
Diseases of Concern

Brucellosis
Leishmaniasis
Leptospirosis
Campylobacter
Canine Influenza
Internal and external parasites (screwworm)

Fomites for livestock diseases:
Foot and Mouth Disease
African Swine Fever

Photo credits: USDA/APHIS/VS John Welch; Giorgi Babuadze, Georgian Ministry of Health
Protecting staff and your facility when importing pets
Where to rescue or acquire animals – consider country’s disease risks

Fully vet and quarantine the animals in country of origin **before** importation (3-6 months in rabies high-risk countries)

Upon arrival, dispose of or sanitize crates and bedding

Separate imported animals in your facility, time in quarantine based on disease risks

Photo credit: Getty Images
Protecting Staff

Avoid contact with animals during transport

Practice good hand-hygiene

Use appropriate PPE

Follow your company’s reporting procedures if a bite/scratch/exposure occurs

Routine diagnostic labs often do not have tools to detect foreign animal diseases

Report sick imported animals to your state veterinarian

Photo credits: CDC
Resources

- CDC Importation Requirements
  www.cdc.gov/importation/index.html
- CDC Recommendations for Traveling with Pets
  www.cdc.gov/importation/traveling-with-pets.html
- High-risk Countries for Dog Rabies:
- CDC Healthy Pets, Healthy People
  www.cdc.gov/healthypets/
- USDA Importation Requirements
- United States Department of Labor (PPE)
  www.osha.gov/personal-protective-equipment
- Kansas State Veterinarian Contact Info
  https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/division-of-animal-health/contacts
The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.