

**CDC**  
**Dog Importation**  
**Guidelines**



# HOW TO USE

This guidebook is designed specifically for veterinarians, providing a thorough overview of the CDC's updated dog importation regulations, effective August 1, 2024.

It outlines the essential steps to ensure that dogs entering the United States meet the required health and safety standards.

**Each section includes:**

- **Requirements for all dogs**
- **Specific requirements based on whether the dog is entering from a **high-risk** or **low-risk** country**
- **A travel checklist**

## SECTION I

**Dogs with a  
Current Rabies Vaccination Administered in the United States**

## SECTION II

**Dogs that have been:**

- **In **HIGH-RISK countries** within the 6 months before entry, and**
- **Do NOT have appropriate documentation of current US-issued rabies vaccine**

## SECTION III

**Dogs That Have Been  
ONLY in Countries That Are Dog **RABIES-FREE** or **LOW-RISK**  
in the 6 Months Before Entry**

DISCLAIMER: THE INFORMATION IN THIS GUIDEBOOK IS DERIVED FROM THE CDC'S OFFICIAL GUIDANCE. FOR THE MOST ACCURATE AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION, VETERINARIANS SHOULD CONSULT THE CDC'S OFFICIAL RESOURCES. IT IS CRUCIAL TO VERIFY ALL DETAILS WITH THE CDC TO ENSURE FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS.

# SECTION I

Dogs with a  
Current Rabies Vaccination  
Administered in the United States

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# Dog Import Requirements to the United States

## FOR ALL DOGS

Eligibility Criteria	Health and Safety	Required Documentation
<b>AGE</b>	<b>APPEARANCE</b>	Additional documentation based on the dog's location in the past 6 months and current rabies vaccination status.
Must be at least 6 months old at the time of entry.	Must appear healthy upon arrival. <i>(If not, the dog may require isolation, examination, and testing at the importer's expense.)</i>	
<b>MICROCHIP</b>	<b>DISEASE</b>	<b><i>CDC Dog Import Form</i></b>
An ISO-compatible microchip implanted before any rabies vaccination. <i>Microchip number must be documented on all forms and veterinary records.</i>	Dogs carrying a contagious disease to people cannot enter the U.S.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Submit online ideally 2-10 days before arrival.</li><li>• Upload a clear photo of the dog.</li><li>• If any information changes, a new form must be submitted.</li><li>• <i><u>Dogs under 1 year:</u> Photo must be taken within 10 days before arrival.</i></li></ul>

# Requirements for Dogs With a Current and Valid Rabies Vaccination Administered in the United States

## Dogs Returning from High-Risk Countries

Dogs with a current rabies vaccination administered in the U.S. that have been in a *high-risk country* for dog rabies must:

- Meet all requirements in the "All Dogs" section.
- Have a **Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination Form\*** endorsed by USDA before departing the U.S.
- Present a copy of the USDA endorsed export health certificate if available (during transition).
- Arrive at the location specified on the CDC Dog Import Form receipt (airport, land border, or seaport).

## Returning Dogs That Have Not Been in High-Risk Countries in Last 6 Months

Dogs with a current rabies vaccination administered in the U.S. that have NOT been in a high-risk country in the last 6 months must:

- Meet all requirements in the "All Dogs" section.
- Arrive at the location specified on the CDC Dog Import Form receipt (airport, land border, or seaport).
- Present either:**
  - A **Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination Form\*** endorsed by USDA.
  - A USDA endorsed export health certificate showing dog's age, microchip number, and valid rabies vaccination.

### Important Information About the **\*Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination Form**

*Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination Form must be completed before departure.*

#### **Verify the following before asking your veterinarian to complete the form:**

<b>Confirm Age</b>	Dog must be at least 6 months old on return date.
<b>Microchip Requirement</b>	Dog must have an ISO-compatible microchip (implanted before any rabies vaccination).
<b>Vaccination(s)</b>	USDA-accredited veterinarian must vaccinate dog against rabies with a U.S.-licensed vaccine. Dog must be at least 12 weeks (84 days) old.
<b>Microchip Verification</b>	Veterinarian must scan for ISO-compatible microchip and record the number at the vaccine appointment. Vaccines given before microchip implantation are invalid.
<b>Confirm Vaccination Validity</b>	Rabies vaccination must be valid for the duration of travel. If the vaccination lapses while overseas and the dog has been in a high-risk country in the past 6 months, the dog must be revaccinated overseas and meet foreign-vaccinated dog requirements, including rabies serology titer, arriving at a specific port of entry, and possible quarantine. The first rabies vaccine must be administered at least 28 days before travel.
<b>Complete Certification Form</b>	Have the USDA-accredited veterinarian complete the Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination form.
<b>Submit Form</b>	Ensure the veterinarian submits the form to the USDA for official endorsement through the VEHCS portal.
<b>Obtain Official Endorsement</b>	Obtain a printed copy of the officially endorsed form from the veterinarian.
<b>Endorsed Form</b>	Dog must travel with a printed copy of the officially endorsed form if it has been in a high-risk country within 6 months.

# Travel Checklist for U.S. Vaccinated Dogs

## 60 Days Before Travel

- Verify dog will be at least 6 months old on day of travel back to the U.S.
- Get your pet microchipped or have your veterinarian verify microchip number.
- Confirm the microchip number is listed on all veterinary records.
- Visit veterinarian to get your dog their rabies vaccination (or booster).
  - Ensure your dog is at least 12 weeks (84 days) old for the first rabies vaccination.
  - Verify rabies vaccination will be valid (not expired) for entire duration of travel.

## 30 Days Before Travel

- Contact veterinarian to complete either:
  - Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination form
- **OR -**
  - The USDA-endorsed export health certificate if your dog will only be in dog rabies-free or low risk countries and will return from the country listed on the certificate or that documents a valid rabies vaccination issued in the US (if your dog will be in a high risk country, this option is available during the transition period).

## 2-10 Days Before Return to the U.S.

- Print a copy of the Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination Form or USDA APHIS-endorsed export health certificate from USDA.
- Take a photo of your dog and complete the CDC Dog Import Form.
  - Upload a picture (jpg, png, gif) of your dog showing its face and body to the CDC Dog Import Form.
  - If your dog will be less than one year of age at the time of return to the U.S., take the photo within 10 days before travel.
- Confirm dog's microchip number is correctly listed on the CDC Dog Import Form.
- Submit a corrected form if any of the information changes.
- Print a copy of the CDC Dog Import Form receipt and travel with it. (You will receive this by email.)
- Travel with at least 2 copies of the CDC Dog Import Form receipt in case the country you are visiting keeps one copy for their records.
- Present the CDC Dog Import Form for re-entry into the United States.
- Finalize travel arrangements with the airline or transport company.

## Day of Travel Back to the U.S.

- If traveling by air, present to the airline:**
  - CDC Dog Import Form receipt
  - Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination form or USDA APHIS-endorsed export health certificate
  - Arrive at the location specified on the CDC Dog Import Form receipt
- Present to U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer:**
  - CDC Dog Import Form receipt
  - Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination Form or USDA APHIS-endorsed export health certificate.

# SECTION II

Foreign Vaccinated Dogs  
In a Country With **High Risk** of Dog Rabies  
Within 6 Months Prior to US Entry

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# Import Requirements

## Foreign-Vaccinated Dogs That Have Been in a Country With **High Risk of Dog Rabies** Within 6 Months Before entry to the United States

FOR ALL DOGS

Eligibility Criteria	Health and Safety	Required Documentation
<b>AGE</b>	<b>APPEARANCE</b>	<b>CDC Dog Import Form</b>
Must be at least 6 months old at the time of entry or return to the United States.	Must appear healthy upon arrival. <i>(If not, the dog may require isolation, examination, and testing at the importer's expense.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Submit online ideally 2-10 days before arrival.</li><li>• Upload a clear photo of the dog.</li><li>• If any information changes, a new form must be submitted.</li><li>• Dogs under 1 year: Photo must be taken within 10 days before arrival.</li></ul>
<b>MICROCHIP</b>	<b>DISEASE</b>	<b>Additional Documentation</b>
Must have an implanted ISO-compatible microchip: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implanted prior to any required rabies vaccination.</li><li>• Microchip number must be documented on all required forms.</li></ul>	Must appear healthy upon arrival: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dogs may not enter if carrying a disease contagious to people.</li><li>• Isolation, veterinary examination, and additional testing may be required at the importer's expense.</li></ul>	Varies depending on where the dog has been in the 6 months before entering or returning to the United States, or if the dog has a current rabies vaccine administered in the United States.



**Dogs, including service dogs, that have been in a country at high-risk for dog rabies within the 6 months before entry and do not have appropriate documentation of current U.S.-issued rabies vaccine must:**

**Must meet all requirements in the "All Dogs" section.**

<b>Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Form</b>	<b>Must have a complete Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip form.</b>
	<p>Ensure the dog is microchipped with an ISO-compatible microchip before receiving the rabies vaccination.</p> <p>Microchip number must be recorded on veterinary documents or the vaccine will not be valid.</p> <p>Verify the dog is at least 12 weeks (84 days) of age when vaccinated against rabies.</p> <p>The dog must have a valid (non-expired) rabies vaccination.</p> <p>If it's the dog's first vaccination or if the dog's vaccination coverage has lapsed, the vaccine must be administered at least 28 days before arrival in the U.S.</p> <p>Form must be completed by your veterinarian and endorsed by an official veterinarian in the exporting country.</p>
<b>Rabies Serology Titer</b>	<b>Must have a valid rabies serology titer (not required if dog has reservation for 28-day quarantine at a CDC-registered animal care facility):</b>
	<p>Blood sample for the rabies serology titer must be drawn at least 30 days after the dog's first valid rabies vaccination and at least 28 days before entry to the U.S.</p> <p>Dogs with multiple valid rabies vaccinations after the microchip was placed may have the sample drawn any time after a rabies booster vaccination, given there is no lapse in vaccine coverage.</p> <p>If a lapse occurs, the sample must be drawn at least 30 days after the valid booster vaccination.</p> <p>Sample must be sent to a CDC-approved rabies serology laboratory. If there is no CDC-approved laboratory in your country, the sample can be sent internationally.</p> <p>Passing results must be obtained for the serology to be valid.</p> <p>Results are valid for the life of the dog as long as rabies vaccination coverage does not lapse. If a lapse occurs, a new rabies serology titer is required, with the sample drawn at least 30 days after the new vaccination.</p> <p>If the dog does not have a valid rabies serology titer, it will be required to be quarantined at a CDC-registered animal care facility for 28 days after being revaccinated by the facility's veterinarian.</p>

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<p><b>Exam and Revaccination Appointment</b> (and quarantine if the dog does not have a valid rabies serology titer)</p>	<p><b>All foreign-vaccinated dogs from high-risk countries in the previous 6 months must have a reservation at a CDC-registered facility for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examination</li> <li>• Verification of age</li> <li>• Documents</li> <li>• Microchip number</li> <li>• Rabies booster vaccination at a CDC-registered animal care facility immediately upon arrival in the U.S.</li> </ul>
	<p>Dogs without a valid rabies serology titer must also have a reservation for quarantine. Dogs will be quarantined at the facility for 28 days at the importer's expense after being revaccinated by the facility's veterinarian.</p> <p>All expenses at the CDC-registered animal care facility, including exam, revaccination, and quarantine (if required), are the responsibility of the importer.</p> <p>The facility will need copies of all required documents prior to confirming your reservation.</p> <p>Ensure the dog meets any facility-specific requirements (contact the facility for additional information).</p> <p>If the CDC-registered animal care facility determines that your documents are not valid or the dog's microchip number, age, or description does not match the paperwork provided, the dog may be denied entry and returned to the country of departure at your expense.</p> <p>Dogs that are ill or not healthy will need testing to confirm they do not have contagious diseases before they can be released.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This may extend the quarantine period beyond 28 days, at the importer's expense.</li> <li>• Ensure dogs are healthy upon arrival, including no evidence of fleas, ticks, or skin diseases.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Verify Correct Airport</b></p>	<p>Have an international flight that arrives directly at the airport with the CDC-registered animal care facility where the dog has a reservation.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dogs must arrive to the U.S. at the airport where the CDC-registered animal care facility is located. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ This must be the location where the dog has a reservation.</li> <li>◦ This must also be the airport listed on the CDC Dog Import Form.</li> <li>◦ Domestic flights or other forms of travel to other locations in the U.S. are not permitted until after the dog receives required follow-up services at the CDC-registered animal care facility and is cleared for entry.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Service Dogs Arriving by Sea</b></p>	<p><b>Service dogs, as defined in 14 CFR 382.3, may arrive by sea if they meet the following conditions:</b></p>
	<p>Meet the requirements in the "All Dogs" section.</p>
	<p>Have a complete Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip form.</p>
	<p>Have a valid rabies serology titer.</p>
	<p>Travel with their handler.</p>
<p><b>Note: Emotional support animals are not considered service animals under this definition.</b></p>	

# Travel Checklist for Foreign-Vaccinated Dogs

## From High-Risk Countries

### 60-90 Days (or more)

- Verify dog will be 6+ months old on arrival.
- Get dog microchipped or verify existing microchip; record on veterinary records.
- Visit vet for rabies vaccination or booster.
- Ensure rabies vaccination is current on arrival date.
- Dog must be at least 12 weeks old when vaccinated against rabies.
- Administer first rabies vaccine at least 28 days before arrival if no prior coverage.
- Collect blood sample for rabies serology titer (at least 30 days after first valid rabies vaccine) to avoid quarantine.

### 30 Days Before Travel

- Complete Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip form.
- Submit form to official government vet in exporting country for certification.
- Last chance to collect blood sample for rabies serology titer (at least 28 days before travel) if not already done.
- Receive endorsed Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip form.
- Book reservation at CDC-registered animal care facility for examination, age verification, microchip, documents, and rabies booster vaccination.
- If no valid rabies serology, make reservation for quarantine.
- Print reservation confirmation from CDC-registered animal care facility.
- Finalize travel arrangements; ensure first point of arrival matches airport with CDC-registered animal care facility.

### 2-10 Days Before Travel

- Take and upload a photo of dog (face and body) to complete CDC Dog Import Form.
- Photo must be within 10 days if dog will be less than 1 year old at arrival.
- Ensure microchip number and airport on form match CDC-registered animal care facility.
- Submit corrected form if information changes.
- Print CDC Dog Import Form receipt from email; ensure it accompanies the dog.
- Finalize travel arrangements with airline or transport company.

### Day of Travel

- Present to airline and U.S. Customs:**
- CDC Dog Import Form receipt.
  - Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip form or USDA-endorsed export health certificate.

### After Travel

- Follow CDC-registered animal care facility instructions for pick-up after required services.

# SECTION II

Foreign Vaccinated Dogs  
In a Country With **Low Risk** of Dog Rabies  
Within 6 Months Prior to US Entry

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**Requirements for Dogs That Have Been Only in Countries That Are  
DOG RABIES-FREE or LOW-RISK  
During the 6 Months Before Entry**

**For ALL Dogs**

<b>Minimum Age</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must be at least 6 months old at time of entry or return to the U.S.</li> <li>- Age must be documented in all veterinary records.</li> </ul>
<b>Microchip</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must have an ISO-compatible microchip.</li> <li>- Microchip must be implanted prior to any required rabies vaccination.</li> <li>- Microchip number must be documented on all records.</li> </ul>
<b>Health Status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must appear healthy upon arrival.</li> <li>- Dogs with contagious diseases are not allowed entry.</li> <li>- Unhealthy dogs may require isolation and additional testing.</li> </ul>
<b>CDC Dog Import Form</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Obtain and complete CDC Dog Import Form online 2-10 days before arrival.</li> <li>- Upload a clear photo showing the dog's face and body.</li> <li>- No charge to importers.</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Documentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requirements vary based on dog's location in the past 6 months and current rabies vaccine status.</li> <li>- Obtain specific documentation accordingly.</li> </ul>

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**Dogs, including service dogs, that have been  
ONLY in dog **RABIES-FREE** or **LOW-RISK** countries  
during the 6 months before entry into the United States must:**

**Meet all requirements in the “All Dogs” section and:**

<p><b>Foreign Rabies Vaccination</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip form, endorsed by an official veterinarian of the rabies-free or low-risk country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Must be completed within 30 days before U.S. arrival</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>AND EITHER:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valid rabies serology titer - <b>OR</b> -</li> <li>• Veterinary records* from the previous 6 months.</li> </ul>
<p><b>U.S. Rabies Vaccination</b></p>	<p>Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination form endorsed by USDA before departure from the U.S.</p>
<p><b>USDA-Endorsed Export Health Certificate</b></p>	<p>Valid USDA-endorsed export health certificate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the rabies-free or low-risk country where the return itinerary originated (valid for 30 days if no rabies vaccination info)</li> </ul> <p><b>- OR -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documents a valid U.S. rabies vaccination.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Certification from DMRVV-Free or Low-Risk Country</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certification of Dog Arriving from DMRVV-free or Low-Risk Country into the U.S. form endorsed by an official veterinarian. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Must be completed within 30 days before U.S. arrival</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veterinary records* from the previous 6 months.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Foreign Export Certificate</b></p>	<p>Foreign export certificate documenting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog is at least 6 months old</li> <li>• Dog’s ISO-compatible microchip number</li> <li>• Endorsement by an official veterinarian</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veterinary records* from the previous 6 months.</li> </ul>
<p>Arrive at the location specified on the CDC Dog Import Form receipt.</p>	
<p><b>Additional Notes</b></p>	<p>Any documentation that is not from the United States must be completed in the country where the dog’s travel originates. <i>For example, if the dog’s documents were issued in France, the dog may not enter the U.S. via a land-border crossing from Mexico to the U.S.</i></p> <p><i>*Examples of veterinary records that must accompany completed forms are European Union pet passports or proof of payment for veterinary services received in the exporting low-risk country for the previous 6 months. Records must include the dog’s microchip number.</i></p>

# Travel Checklist for Dogs That Have Been Only in Countries That Are Dog RABIES FREE or LOW-RISK in the 6 Months Before Entry

## 60 Days Before Travel

- Verify dog will be at least 6 months old on day of travel.
- Get dog microchipped or have a veterinarian verify its microchip number.
  - *Ensure the microchip number is listed on all veterinary records.*
- Visit a veterinarian to get your dog its rabies vaccination (or booster) before travel.
  - *Rabies vaccination is not required if the dog has been only in dog rabies-free or low-risk countries for 6 months, but is strongly recommended.*

## 30 Days Before Travel

- Ask the veterinarian to complete the Certification of Dog Arriving from DMRVV-free or Low-Risk Country into the United States form or other CDC-approved documentation.
  - *The veterinarian must submit this form to an official government veterinarian in the exporting country (or to USDA if the dog was vaccinated in the U.S.) for certification. Begin making travel arrangements and reservations.*
- Collect veterinary records for the past 6 months, listing an address for the veterinarian in the low-risk country and the dog's microchip number.
  - *Veterinary records are not needed if the dog's documentation is a valid Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination form, or a USDA-endorsed export health certificate if the dog is returning from the dog rabies-free or low-risk country listed on the certificate.*
  - *If the dog's documentation is the Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip form, the importer can present a valid rabies serology titer instead of veterinary records.*
- Receive a copy of Certification of Dog Arriving from DMRVV-free or Low-Risk Country into the United States (or other CDC-approved documentation) from the veterinarian.

## 2-10 Days Before Travel

- Ensure you enter the dog's microchip number into this form correctly.
- Take a photo of the dog and complete the CDC Dog Import Form.
  - Upload a picture (.jpg, .png, .gif files only) of the dog showing its face and body.
  - Dogs less than one year old at time of arrival should have the photograph taken within 10 days of travel.
- Submit a corrected form if any information on this form changes.
- Print a copy of the CDC Dog Import Form receipt received in your email and ensure it accompanies the dog.
- Finalize travel arrangements with the airline or transport company.

## Day of Travel

- Present the following to the airline before boarding the dog:**
- CDC Dog Import Form receipt
  - Certification of Dog Arriving from DMRVV-free or Low-Risk Country into the United States form (or other CDC-approved documentation)
  - Arrive at the location specified on the CDC Dog Import Form receipt
- Present to U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer:**
- CDC Dog Import Form receipt
  - Certification of Dog Arriving from DMRVV-free or Low-Risk Country into the United States form (or other CDC-approved documentation)

## Contact Information

For more information, contact CDC-INFO at (800) 232-4636.