



CDC Information Sheet for Importers of Dogs Arriving by Sea

(includes private, commercial, passenger commercial, and illegal vessels)



Effective August 1, 2024, entry requirements for ALL dogs arriving in the United States by sea:

- Must be at least 6 months of age or older;
- Must appear healthy on arrival;
- Must be accompanied by veterinary documentation with a microchip number included on the form; and
- Must be accompanied by receipt of the *CDC Dog Import Form* receipt.



Scan here to find our dog importation homepage.

Additional entry requirements depend on which countries the dog has been in during the past 6 months and where the dog was vaccinated against rabies.

Foreign-vaccinated dogs arriving from high-risk countries by land: Prohibited

- **Prohibited from entry; do not allow disembarkation.**
- Exception for service dogs if the owner:
 - Presents a completed *Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip* form **AND**
 - Presents a titer from a CDC-approved laboratory

U.S.-vaccinated dogs arriving from high-risk countries by sea:

- **Allowed to enter with any of the following:**
 - *Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination* form with valid rabies vaccination date included on form.
 - During the transition period: A USDA APHIS-endorsed export health certificate with a valid (not expired) U.S.-rabies vaccine listed on the form
 - The export health certificate must have been issued before August 1, 2024.
 - The export health certificate must be for the country where the dog's return itinerary originated

Dogs arriving from dog rabies-free or low-risk countries by sea:

- **Allowed to enter with any of the following documents, provided they are valid (not expired):**
 - *Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip* form completed in a dog rabies-free or low-risk country + titer, veterinary records, **OR** proof of veterinary payment for services completed in the exporting country at least six months prior to traveling to the United States **OR**
 - *Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination* form **OR**
 - A USDA-endorsed export health certificate
 - The export health certificate must be for the country where the dog's return itinerary originated.
 - A foreign export health certificate from a dog rabies-free or low-risk country stating the dog is at least six months old and listing the microchip number.
 - The export health certificate must be certified by an official veterinarian in the exporting country **AND**
 - Foreign veterinary records (such as the EU Pet Passport) or proof of veterinary payment for services completed in the exporting country at least six months prior to traveling to the United States must accompany the export certificate **OR**
 - A *Certification of dog arriving from rabies-free or low-risk country* form with attached foreign veterinary records **OR** proof of veterinary payment for services completed in a dog rabies-free or low-risk country at least six months prior to traveling to the United States.
 - The form must be certified by an official veterinarian in the exporting country **AND**
 - Documents must be from the same country where the dog's itinerary originated.

Failure to meet all entry requirements will result in the dog being denied disembarkation.
Please contact [CDC-INFO](#) with any questions.

