

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CERTIFICATES

A pet travel bulletin brought to you by the United States Department of Agriculture

SUMMER 2024

HOW TO PREPARE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CERTIFICATES FOR PETS

NEW CDC Rabies Regulations for Dogs Returning to the US: see [Bringing a Dog into the United States](#)

[Technical Instructions Document: For USDA-accredited Veterinarians Completing the Certification of U.S.-issued Rabies Vaccination \(For Live Dog Re-Entry into the United States\) \(cdc.gov\)](#)

Pet Travel Website for USDA Accredited Veterinarians



APHIS' [Pet Travel Website](#) provides important information on certifying pets for international travel, completing and submitting health certificates for USDA endorsement, and accessing and using the Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS). The [Accredited Veterinarian page](#) is a great resource for a myriad of pet travel topics, including:

1. [Know Your Responsibilities as an Accredited Veterinarian](#)
2. [An Accredited Veterinarian's Role in the International Export of Animals \(YouTube video\)](#)
3. [Frequently Asked Questions About Pet Travel for Accredited Veterinarians](#)

Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS) Help Page



Be sure to bookmark both the [Veterinary Export Health Certification System \(VEHCS\) Help Page](#) & the [Quick Reference Guides for VEHCS Users](#) as it includes these **VERY** valuable guides:

1. [Accessing VEHCS for the First Time](#)
2. [FAQ for VEHCS](#)
3. [Step-By-Step Guide to Using VEHCS](#)
4. [How to Provide a Pre-Paid Return Shipping Label](#)

5. [VEHCS Training for Accredited Veterinarians: NVAP Module 34](#)

6. For VEHCS Help for problems with:

User ID, password, and technical support related to login -> **eAuthentication Support: aehd@usda.gov**

VEHCS/PCIT technical support, organization administration issues-> **VEHCS/PCIT Help Desk: pcithelpdesk@usda.gov**

Issuing export certificates, interpreting regulation and requirements, payment (user fees), etc.-> **[APHIS Endorsement Offices](#)**

YouTube Video Guide to Issuing Health Certificates



This 22-minute [video](#) outlines the steps to complete a health certificate. The video covers health certificate types, required fields and how to complete, common mistakes, and other tips.

This is a great refresher for accredited veterinarians and their staff who help prepare certificates! Please view it before the busy **summer** travel season!

6 Key Tips



1. Always start at [USDA APHIS | Taking a Pet FROM the U.S. to Another Country \(Export\)](#). If you still have questions after reviewing the country-specific resources and those referenced in this bulletin contact your [Service Center](#).
2. Double-check that information (e.g. breed, microchip) entered on the health certificate matches the rabies vaccine certificate and other supporting documents. Certificates submitted in endorsable condition expedite the process.
3. Every health certificate submitted via VEHCS can be electronically signed by typing "ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED" in the signature block.
4. For pets traveling to the European Union (EU) or United Kingdom (UK), you may issue the health certificate up to 30 days before the animal's arrival. Inspect, issue and submit early.
5. Download the UK health certificate from the [Pet Travel Website](#) then open in Adobe (not the web viewer) and hover over fillable fields for clear instructions.
6. If a prepaid return shipping label is required, you must purchase it directly from the courier (e.g. FedEx, UPS). Do not put the USDA name or address in the return. To avoid delays, we strongly recommend that you purchase an **overnight** return shipping label with **Saturday** delivery.