

# Travellers' Information Guide On-Line



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The content of this information bulletin is provided for general information only and is accurate as of the date of issue (see above). The information is subject to further updates or revisions without notice.

## Taking Your Pet to the United States

Both Canada and the U.S. control the importation of pets, including those accompanying their owners for a temporary visit.

For Canada, this function is provided by:

Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
[www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca)

For the U.S., this function is provided by:

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
[www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

Specific concerns and questions should be referred, well in advance of travel, to the respective government agency. Please note special restriction and quarantines exist for animals travelling to Hawaii.

In general terms (for cats and dogs that are older than three months, travelling from a country that is not officially recognized as rabies free such as Canada), the following information applies:

**Cats** must be healthy and free of evidence of diseases communicable to humans when they are examined at the port of entry. If the cat does not seem to be in good health, the owner may have to pay for an additional examination by a licensed veterinarian.

To enter (or re-enter) Canada, a cat three (3) months of age or older must be accompanied by a valid rabies vaccination certificate, signed by a licensed veterinarian, which clearly identifies the cat (breed, colour, weight, etc.) plus the name of the licensed rabies vaccine used (trade name), serial number and duration of validity (up to 3 years). Please note: if the validity date does not appear on the certificate, then it will be considered a one year vaccine. A cat under three (3) months of age does not require a rabies vaccination.

**Dogs** must be healthy and free of evidence of diseases that could be communicable to humans when they are examined at the port of entry. If the dog does not seem to be in good health, the owner may have to pay for an additional examination by a licensed veterinarian. To enter the United States, a dog must be vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days in advance of travel. If the animal has not been vaccinated for at least 30 days, it may be allowed to enter provided it is confined at the owner's place of residence until the 30-day period has lapsed.

To enter (or re-enter) Canada, a dog three (3) months of age or older and accompanied by its owner, must be accompanied by a valid rabies vaccination certificate, signed by a licensed veterinarian, which clearly identifies the dog (breed, colour, weight, etc.) plus the name of the licensed rabies vaccine used (trade name), serial number and duration of validity (up to 3 years). Please note: if the validity date does not appear on the certificate, then it will be considered a one year vaccine. A dog under three (3) months of age does not require a rabies vaccination. If the dog is not accompanied by its owner, there are additional import requirements.

Other pets, including birds, have specific importation restrictions for both Canada and the U.S., and should be discussed with the respective government agency.

For travel between Canada and the U.S., be sure to check with the animal importation/inspection agencies for both countries prior to commencing your travel. While you will have to clear inspection travelling with your pet into the United States, you will similarly have to clear Canadian inspection upon returning with your pet to Canada. The rules are different between both countries.

Please note that microchip encoding is specific to only one country.

[www.snowbirds.org](http://www.snowbirds.org)