

Questions and Answers: Importing Live Dogs Into the United States

Q: What do I need to do to import a dog into the United States for resale purposes?

A: Please take the following steps:

Step 1: Request an import permit application from USDA Animal Care. Contact Dr. Gerald Rushin by phone (301-851-3740), email (Gerald.L.Rushin@aphis.usda.gov) or mail (USDA – APHIS – Animal Care, 4700 River Road, Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737).

Step 2: Make sure the dog is examined by a veterinarian.

Step 3: Make sure a veterinarian administers all appropriate vaccinations and completes the necessary health certificate.

Step 4: Make sure a veterinarian also administers the rabies vaccination and completes a rabies vaccination certificate.

Step 5: Return the completed import permit application, health certificate and rabies vaccination certificate to: Dr. Gerald Rushin, USDA – APHIS – Animal Care, 4700 River Road, Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737.

Step 6: USDA Animal Care will send you the necessary import permit. (Please allow up to 10 days for processing once Animal Care receives your application.)

Q: What do I need to do to import a dog into the United States for research purposes?

A: Please take the following steps:

Step 1: Request an import permit application from USDA Animal Care. Contact Dr. Gerald Rushin by phone (301-851-3740), email (Gerald.L.Rushin@aphis.usda.gov) or mail (USDA – APHIS – Animal Care, 4700 River Road, Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737).

Step 2: Make sure the dog is examined by a veterinarian.

Step 3: Make sure a veterinarian administers all appropriate vaccinations and completes the necessary health certificate.

Step 4: Make sure a veterinarian also administers the rabies vaccination and completes a rabies vaccination certificate.

Step 5: Return the completed import permit application, health certificate and rabies vaccination certificate to: Dr. Gerald Rushin, USDA – APHIS – Animal Care, 4700 River Road, Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737. Your import permit application must explain which part(s), if any, of the live dog import regulations would interfere with a research protocol approved by your research facility's institutional animal care and use committee.

Step 6: USDA Animal Care will send you the necessary import permit. (Please allow up to 10 days for processing once Animal Care receives your application.)

Q: What do I need to do to import a dog into the United States for veterinary treatment?

A: Please take the following steps:

Step 1: Request an import permit application from USDA Animal Care. Contact Dr. Gerald Rushin by phone (301-851-3740), email (Gerald.L.Rushin@aphis.usda.gov) or mail (USDA – APHIS – Animal Care, 4700 River Road, Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737).

Step 2: Make sure the dog is examined by a veterinarian.

Step 3: Make sure the veterinarian administers all appropriate vaccinations and completes a health certificate stating that the dog is in need of veterinary treatment which cannot be obtained in the country of export.

Step 4: Make sure a veterinarian also administers the rabies vaccination and completes a rabies vaccination certificate.

Step 5: Return the completed import permit application, health certificate and rabies vaccination certificate to: Dr. Gerald Rushin, USDA – APHIS – Animal Care, 4700 River Road, Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737.

Step 6: USDA Animal Care will send you the necessary import permit. (Please allow up to 10 days for processing once Animal Care receives your application.)

Q: What do I need to do to import a dog into Hawaii from the British Isles, Australia, Guam or New Zealand for any purpose?

A: Please take the following steps.

Step 1: Request an import permit application from USDA Animal Care. Contact Dr. Gerald Rushin by phone (301-851-3740), email (Gerald.L.Rushin@aphis.usda.gov) or mail (USDA – APHIS – Animal Care, 4700 River Road, Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737).

Step 2: Make sure the dog is examined by a veterinarian.

Step 3: Make sure a veterinarian administers all appropriate vaccinations and completes the necessary health certificate.

Step 4: Make sure a veterinarian also administers the rabies vaccination and completes a rabies vaccination certificate.

Step 5: Return the completed import permit application, health certificate and rabies vaccination certificate to: Dr. Gerald Rushin, USDA – APHIS – Animal Care, 4700 River Road, Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737.

Step 6: USDA Animal Care will send you the necessary import permit. (Please allow up to 10 days for processing once Animal Care receives your application.)

Additional Information

For more specific information about the Animal Welfare Act and its regulations and standards, please visit the USDA Animal Care website at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare.

Contact information for the Animal Care regional and headquarters offices is listed below.

Eastern Region

USDA Animal Care
920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27606-5210
Phone: (919) 855-7100
Fax: (919) 855-7123
Email: aceast@aphis.usda.gov

Western Region

USDA Animal Care
2150 Centre Avenue
Building B, Mailstop #3W11
Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117
Phone: (970) 494-7478
Fax: (970) 494-7461
Email: acwest@aphis.usda.gov

Headquarters

USDA Animal Care
4700 River Road, Unit 84
Riverdale, MD 20737-1234
Phone: (301) 851-3751
Fax: (301) 734-4978
Email: ace@aphis.usda.gov

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