



CDC Information Sheet for Importers of Dogs Arriving by Sea

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



Effective August 1, 2024, ALL dogs arriving in the United States by sea must:

- Be at least 6 months of age;
- Appear healthy on arrival;
- Present veterinary documentation with a microchip number included on the form; and
- Be accompanied by a *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 sea: 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 returning from the U.S. by sea:

- **Allowed to enter at any U.S. port of entry with one of the following:**
 - *Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination* form with valid rabies vaccination date included on form **OR**
 - During the transition period* (which will expire on July 31, 2025): A USDA-endorsed export health certificate that was used to ship the dog from the U.S. to a high-risk country, if that export health certificate:
 - was issued by a USDA-accredited veterinarian before July 31, 2025
 - documents the dog's age (at least 6 months), the microchip number, and valid rabies vaccination administered in the U.S. The rabies vaccination must be valid (not expired) on the date of return or the form will be invalid.
 - The export health certificate must be for the country where the dog's return itinerary originated. **OR**
 - A USDA-endorsed export health certificate that was used to ship the dog from the U.S. to a rabies-free or low-risk country, if that export health certificate:
 - documents the dog's age (at least 6 months) and the microchip number.
 - is 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 at any U.S. port of entry with any of the following documents, provided they are valid (not expired):**
 - *Certification of Dog Arriving from DMRVV-free or Low-Risk Country* form endorsed by an official veterinarian in the exporting country **AND**
 - Veterinary records (which list the microchip number) for the dog from the exporting country for the 6 months before traveling to the U.S.
 - This form must be for the dog rabies-free or low risk country where the dog's return itinerary originated.
 - The form has different validity dates depending on whether and where the dog was vaccinated. See our website for more details. www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/dogs-entering-us-after-august-1.html#low-risk
 - OR**
 - *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 **AND**
 - The initial rabies vaccine must be given at least 28 days before arrival **OR**
 - 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.

* The transition period (expiring on July 31, 2025) provides additional options to owners of dogs with a valid U.S.-issued rabies vaccination that have been in a high-risk country in the past 6 months.

Failure to meet all entry requirements will result in the dog being denied disembarkation.

Please contact [CDC-INFO](#) with any questions.

