

TRAVELING WITH YOUR PET



Traveling with dogs, cats, ferrets, rodents, hedgehogs, (including tenrecs), reptiles, amphibians, and pet birds such as parrots, parakeets, finches and canaries

If you are planning to visit or move to an island nation or state such as Hawaii, American Samoa, Tahiti, New Zealand, Japan, Australia or the UK, you MUST visit [‘Traveling to rabies-controlled areas first’](#).

First, you need to visit the USDA Pet Travel Website <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel>. A USDA Certificate Of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), or Health Certificate, issued by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian, will be required if you are planning on traveling by air, whether internationally or domestically. This will not typically be required if you are traveling domestically in a motor vehicle.

The CVI/Health Certificate does require a physical exam by the veterinarian, with associated charges, and dogs and cats must be up to date with at least rabies vaccination. Other preventative care measures such as Distemper/Parvo vaccine, Bordetella, parasite prevention including heartworm prevention and a stool sample microscopic exam for parasites are all strongly recommended. The CVI/Health Certificate is valid for 10 days when leaving, and 30 days when returning home.

These rules apply to assistance animals, therapy animals, service animals, and emotional support animals just like they do to pets. DO NOT ASSUME that you will be granted an exception simply because you need to keep your animal with you at all times. You WILL be disappointed.

If you are traveling internationally you will want to visit the USDA Pet Travel Website <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel> MONTHS in advance of your departure date. Here you will find further information including a database maintained by the USDA to help you understand the steps, including tests and vaccines your pet will need to travel with you internationally. These requirements are established by each individual country according to their laws, so they vary significantly from country to country, but you will want to check this website repeatedly, as well as contacting the USDA Veterinary Service Office in your area. <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/endorsement-offices> as you complete your pet's preparations.

Again, these rules apply to assistance animals, therapy animals, service animals and emotional support animals just like they do to

pets. DO NOT ASSUME you will be granted an exception simply because you need to keep your pet with you at all times. You WILL be disappointed. Also, be aware the laws of the United States that provide special allowances for therapy, service, assistance and emotional support animals do not apply outside of the United States.

Be aware that you are not 'just taking your pet on a trip with you'. In the eyes of the animal disease control officials in the foreign country you are visiting, you are importing an animal into a foreign country. There are SERIOUS international regulations regarding this that have been put in place to protect the animal related industries and the public in the countries involved. Obviously, your pet is not livestock, but your pet can carry diseases that affect livestock, and can transmit these livestock in the country you're visiting. Your pet can also carry diseases that can be transmitted to people. The government simply wants to ensure they are regulating the risk of letting people bring in foreign animals into a country.

Finally, as you complete your pet's traveling papers, you will need to obtain a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), or Health Certificate, from a USDA Accredited Veterinarian. Not every veterinarian provides these services because gaining USDA Accreditation is a complicated, frustrating, and a very time consuming process, plus USDA Accredited Veterinarians must deal with the bureaucratic hassles associated with issuing and assuming responsibility for the CVI, or Health Certificates. The Veterinarians of A Caring Vet and Pet Medical Services are all USDA Accredited.

However, do not expect us to have the CVI/Health Certificate waiting for you and to know all the details about completing it. We are experts in treating and preventing animal disease, not in animal importation and exportation. Each individual country's veterinary inspection [process is different. We can assist you with the animal exportation and importation, but it is not a primary focus of what we do. Things will go much smoother if you take the time to be well prepared ahead of your visit to complete the CVI/Health Certificate. You need to know that if you are not fully prepared at your visit, you will be asked to reschedule as these appointments are very time consuming. It is not fair to make other patients have to wait to be seen because you came unprepared.

For international travel you will also need to have the CVI Endorsed by a 2nd veterinarian directly employed by the USDA. Fortunately, this can often be done online, but do not count on this until you verify it with the endorsement office.

<https://aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/endorsement-offices>. There are fees associated with obtaining this USDA Endorsement in addition to the fees associated with your local USDA Accredited veterinarian. You can find these fees here, <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/pet-travel-info-and-guidance-document/pet-travel-endorsement>.

The bureaucratic hassles of traveling with your pet can be nightmarish, especially when traveling internationally. Your USDA Accredited Veterinarian , and the USDA Endorsing Veterinarian are there to serve you, to ensure that a complex and difficult process goes smoothly so you and your pet can enjoy your trip

instead of enduring a nightmare of bureaucratic hassles in a foreign country. Please be prepared to work with them as they do their best to make a very complex process as simple as possible for you.