



May 8, 2024

RE: Notice of Update to CDC Dog and Cat Importation Regulation, Effective August 1, 2024

Dear Colleagues:

This letter notifies you of an update to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s dog and cat importation regulation (42 CFR 71.51 and relevant definitions in 42 CFR 71.50), effective August 1, 2024, at 12:01AM ET. CDC is updating this regulation to protect the health and safety of people and animals, and to prevent the reintroduction of dog rabies to the United States. The regulation will address recent challenges with international dog importations and more closely align with the World Organisation for Animal Health's standards for the international movement of dogs from countries determined to be a high-risk for dog rabies.

The temporary suspension of dogs from high-risk countries will expire when the new regulation become effective on August 1, 2024. Below is a summary of the [new requirements](#), effective August 1, 2024, for importing dogs into the U.S.

All dogs must meet the following requirements for importation into the United States (including those that left the U.S. and are returning—*regardless of the country they are being imported from*).

All dogs must

1. be healthy upon arrival
2. be at least 6 months of age
3. have an International Organization for Standardization (ISO)-compatible microchip (implanted prior to any required rabies vaccinations)
4. have a *CDC Dog Import Form receipt*
 - a. The CDC Dog Import Form is an [online form on CDC's website](#). Upon successful completion of the form, a receipt will be autogenerated and immediately emailed to the importer. There is no charge to the importer for submitting this form.
5. have additional documents depending on where the dog has been in the last 6 months and whether or not the dog was vaccinated in the United States

Additionally, dogs that have been in a country with a high risk of dog rabies in the six months prior to arriving in the United States and do not have valid documentation of a U.S.-issued rabies vaccination must also:

6. arrive via air at a port of entry with a CDC-registered animal care facility (ACF);
7. have a reservation at an ACF prior to arrival; and
8. have a valid rabies titer obtained before arrival from a CDC-approved laboratory or undergo a 28-day quarantine at an ACF upon arrival

This standardization of the importation process will streamline the overall process and allow for safer and more efficient entry of dogs into the United States.

The updated regulation means:

- importers will have more difficulty importing dogs with fraudulent records
- air carriers will be required to confirm documents *before* boarding dogs and to create an air waybill for **all dogs** transported into the United States (including dogs transported as hand carried or excess baggage)
- more dogs will be sent to CDC-registered animal care facilities (ACF) for temporary housing and care, as it requires all foreign-vaccinated dogs from high-risk countries to go to an ACF upon arrival for examination and revaccination for rabies

There are no new requirements for cat importation unless a cat is found to be ill or dead en route to or upon arrival at a U.S. port of entry.

For additional information on CDC's new entry requirements please visit www.cdc.gov/dogtravel. If you have any questions about this letter or CDC's importation regulations, please contact us by email at cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov.

Thank you for your continued partnership in protecting the American public from rabies and other public health threats.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Clive Brown".

Sincerely,
Clive Brown, MBBS, MPH, MSc, DTM&H
Chief, Quarantine and Border Health Services Branch
Division of Global Migration and Quarantine
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention