

# 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 (301-851-3751), email ([Gerald.L.Rushin@aphis.usda.gov](mailto: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 (301-851-3751), email ([Gerald.L.Rushin@aphis.usda.gov](mailto: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 (301-851-3751), email ([Gerald.L.Rushin@aphis.usda.gov](mailto: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 (301-851-3751), email ([Gerald.L.Rushin@aphis.usda.gov](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ace@aphis.usda.gov)

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