**IMPORTATION OF DOGS AND CATS INTO FLORIDA**

**Dogs and Cats Entering Florida from Other States or U.S. Territories**

The two basic requirements for pet dogs or cats to enter Florida are:

(1) Health certificate issued by a veterinarian in the state of origin, dated within 30 days of entry, stating that they are:

   (a) Free from signs of any infectious or communicable disease;

   (b) Did not originate within an area under quarantine for rabies; and

   (c) Not known to have a history of exposure to a rabies-infected animal prior to importation.

Note: Exceptions to the requirement for a health certificate in (1) above are for dogs or cats imported for exhibition purposes only and that will remain in the state less than six (6) months, and any service animal or working dog.

(2) All dogs or cats three (3) months of age and older transported into Florida must have a current rabies vaccination. Adequate proof of current vaccination must be from a licensed veterinarian.

(Reference: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, [Administrative Rule, Section 5C-3.009, Dogs and Cats](https://www.agriculture.state.fl.us/publications/10-26710-00000.pdf), and Florida Statutes, Section 828.30, Rabies Vaccination of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets."

**Traveler Tip** — Most airlines will require a health certificate issued by a veterinarian within 7-10 days of travel. Check with your airline and local veterinarian for details.

For questions, please contact the Division of Animal Industry in Tallahassee at (850) 410-0900.

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**Dogs and Cats Entering Florida from Other Countries**

In addition to the Florida requirements above for either dogs or cats, for DOGS entering the US from other countries, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have additional requirements, including a rabies vaccination at least 30 days prior to entry OR confinement of puppies less than three months of age until 30 days after they have received their initial rabies vaccination. The CDC/US Public Health Service Division of Quarantine may be contacted at (404) 639-8107 or (800) 232-4636.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regulate the international importation of dogs, cats, bats, turtles, monkeys, civets, African rodents, and birds from certain countries, for more information call their offices at the contact numbers above.

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**Helpful Tips on International Import/Export of Pets**

**International Import of Pets**
There are many different processes involved with importing species of live animals into the United States. U.S. import procedures are generally regulated by federal rules and agencies, rather than state entities. For the latest requirements and procedures for sending ALL animals, including live animals, semen, embryos, pets, livestock and animal products into the U.S. through Florida, contact the USDA APHIS-VS-Florida Area office in Gainesville at (352) 313-3060 or the USDA-APHIS-VS Import-Export Center in Miami at (305) 876-2200, Monday - Friday 8am - 4:30 pm.

**International Export of Pets**

Exporting an animal from the US requires specific documentation and possible testing in advance, and may take weeks or months of preparation. You should start by contacting an accredited private veterinary practitioner to assist you in the process. Most licensed veterinarians are accredited, so start by discussing this with your personal veterinarian. You or your veterinarian should then contact the USDA Veterinary Services (VS) office in Gainesville or Miami as early as possible to receive specific instructions and entry requirements for the country to which you wish to ship animals. Generally, an international health certificate is issued by a local veterinarian and then sent to the USDA Veterinary Services (VS) office. All paperwork is subsequently approved by that office (you do not actually have to take your pet to the Austin office) and returned to the veterinarian.

For moving ALL animals and animal products out of the U.S. from Florida, contact the USDA APHIS-VS, Monday –Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at one of 2 locations:

1. USDA-APHIS-VS Area Office, 8100 NW 15th Place, Gainesville, FL 32606-9137, Phone: (352) 313-3060, Fax: (352) 313-3062.

2. USDA-APHIS-VS / Miami Import-Export Center, 6300 N.W. 36th Street, Miami, FL 33122 Phone: (305) 876-2200, Fax: (305) 876-2201.