

Importing Pets to the USA

A co-branded resource from
Dutch + Starwood Pet Travel

Moving abroad with a pet involves more than booking a flight. Most countries have strict import requirements — and the earlier you start, the smoother the process. Use this checklist to understand what's required and who can help.

What your pet needs

The import requirements for cats and dogs to the USA are outlined below. Please note that the requirements for dogs coming from high-risk rabies countries are more strict and require more planning.

Cats

- ☐ ISO-compatible microchip (recommended)
- ☐ Rabies vaccination (recommended)
- ☐ Core cat vaccinations (recommended)
- ☐ International health certificate dated within 10 days prior to travel
- ☐ Additional customs forms

Dogs (from low-risk or rabies-free countries)

- ☐ At least 6 months old
- ☐ ISO-compatible microchip
- ☐ Rabies vaccination (required by many states and some airlines)
- ☐ Core dog vaccinations (recommended)
- ☐ International health certificate dated within 10 days prior to travel (required by most airlines)
- ☐ Free from screwworm (if coming from a screwworm-affected country)
- ☐ CDC dog import form
- ☐ Additional customs forms

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Dogs (from high-risk rabies countries & US vaccine)

- ☐ At least 6 months old
- ☐ ISO-compatible microchip (implanted BEFORE the rabies vaccine)
- ☐ US-issued Rabies vaccination
- ☐ Certification of U.S.-issued Rabies Vaccination form**
- ☐ Core dog vaccinations (recommended)
- ☐ International health certificate dated within 10 days prior to travel (required by most airlines)
- ☐ Free from screwworm (if coming from a screwworm-affected country)
- ☐ CDC dog import form
- ☐ Additional customs forms

**If you do not have the endorsed Certification of U.S.-issued Rabies Vaccination form, then you must follow the rules for foreign-vaccinated dog below

Dogs (from high-risk rabies countries & foreign vaccine)

- ☐ At least 6 months old
- ☐ ISO-compatible microchip (implanted BEFORE the rabies vaccine)
- ☐ Rabies vaccination
- ☐ Rabies titer blood test (OR a 28-day quarantine at a CDC-registered animal care facility)
- ☐ Can only arrive to certain airports (ATL, LAX, MIA, JFK, PHL, IAD)
- ☐ Reservation at a CDC-registered animal care facility
- ☐ Core dog vaccinations (recommended)
- ☐ International health certificate dated within 10 days prior to travel
- ☐ Free from screwworm (if coming from a screwworm-affected country)
- ☐ CDC dog import form
- ☐ Additional customs forms

**A more detailed list can be found on the [CDC website](#).

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Additional resources

[High-risk rabies countries list](#)

[CDC rules for importing dogs to the US](#)

[CDC-registered Animal Care Facilities](#)

[USDA requirements for bringing cats to the USA](#)

How Starwood helps

Starwood manages the full logistics of your pet's import to the USA — from arrival to delivery.

- US import services and customs clearance
- Meet and greet at the airport or delivery to your new home

How Dutch helps

Dutch connects pet owners with U.S.-licensed veterinarians for ongoing telehealth care after your pet is settled into their new home in the U.S.

- Virtual vet visits for health concerns, medication management, and wellness care
- Unlimited follow-ups so you're never left guessing between appointments
- Online pet pharmacy with member discounts (only available in certain U.S. states)

Ready to start planning?

Visit starwoodpet.com to get a quote for your pet's import to the USA and visit dutch.com for ongoing vet care.