USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CERTIFICATES

A pet travel bulletin brought to you by the United States Department of Agriculture

WINTER 2023

PRO TIPS FOR PREPARING PET HEALTH CERTIFICATES!

Video Guide to Issuing Health Certificates

Pet Travel Website for Accredited Veterinarians

6 Key Tips

VEHCS Help

YouTube Video Guide to Issuing Health Certificates

This 22-minute video outlines the steps to complete a health certificate. The video covers health certificate types, required fields and how to complete, common mistakes, and other tips.

This is a great refresher for accredited veterinarians and their staff who help prepare certificates! Please view it before the busy holiday travel season!

Pet Travel Website for USDA Accredited Veterinarians

APHIS' Pet Travel Website provides important information on certifying pets for international travel, completing and submitting health certificates for USDA endorsement, and accessing and using the Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS). The Accredited Veterinarian page is a great resource for a myriad of pet travel topics, including:

1. Knowing Your Responsibilities as an Accredited Veterinarian
2. An Accredited Veterinarian's Role in the International Export of Animals (YouTube video)
3. Preventing Endorsement Delays
4. When the Airline Will Not Accept the Health Certificate
5. Frequently Asked Questions About Pet Travel for Accredited Veterinarians

6 Key Tips

1. Always start at USDA APHIS | Taking a Pet FROM the U.S. to Another Country (Export). If you still have questions after reviewing the country-specific resources and those referenced in this bulletin contact your Service Center.

2. Double-check that information (e.g. breed, microchip) entered on the health certificate matches the rabies vaccine certificate and other supporting documents. Certificates submitted in endorsable condition expedite the process.

3. Every health certificate submitted via VEHCS can be electronically signed by typing "ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED" in the signature block.

4. For pets traveling to the European Union (EU) or United Kingdom (UK), you may issue the health certificate up to 30 days before the animal's arrival. Inspect, issue and submit early.

5. Download the UK health certificate from the Pet Travel Website, then open in Adobe (not the web viewer) and hover over fillable fields for clear instructions.

6. If a prepaid return shipping label is required, you must purchase it directly from the courier (e.g. FedEx, UPS). Do not put the USDA name or address in the return. To avoid delays, we strongly recommend that you purchase an **overnight** return shipping label with **Saturday** delivery.

Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS) Help Page

Be sure to bookmark this resource for beginning and expert VEHCS users! It includes these **VERY** valuable guides:

Step-By-Step Guide to Using VEHCS Quick Reference Guides for VEHCS users

FAQ for VEHCS NVAP Module 34: Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS)