
Center for Disease Control (CDC) Requirement for Rabies Vaccination for Dogs Entering the U.S.

Applies to: All International Cargo locations accepting live animals destined for the U.S.

Effective Date: August 11, 2014

Policy: Currently dogs are allowed to enter the U.S. without a rabies vaccination providing that the dog is accompanied by a confinement agreement form (CDC form 75.37). This CDC form is an agreement that the dog's owner/breeder will quarantine the dog(s) until proper rabies vaccination is administered.

Effective August 11, 2014 CDC's Dog Importation Regulations require that dogs be fully immunized against rabies before being imported into the U.S. (see exceptions below). The rabies vaccination must be administered no earlier than 12 weeks of age of the dog and at least 30 days before arrival at a U.S. port of entry. Therefore, the youngest that a puppy may be imported to the U.S. is 4 months of age.

Exceptions:

The CDC will require that all dogs have valid rabies vaccination certificates for entry into the U.S. except:

- When shipper has been given express permission from the CDC to import a dog not fully immunized against rabies. In this case CDC issues the shipper a confinement agreement form (CDC 75.37).
- Dog originates from country/locality considered "rabies-free" for the purposes of CDC's dog importation regulations. Unvaccinated dogs may be imported without proof of rabies vaccination if they have spent the previous 6 months in a county that is free of rabies, as listed below.

| Region | Countries/Localities |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Africa | Cape Verde, Mauritius, Réunion, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles |
| Americas | North: Bermuda, Saint Pierre and Miquelon Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, The Bahamas, Barbados, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Kitts (Saint Christopher) and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Martin, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Turks and Caicos, Virgin Islands (UK and US) |
| Asia and the Middle East | Hong Kong, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia (Sabah), Qatar, Singapore, United Arab Emirates |
| Europe^a | Albania, Austria, Belgium, Corsica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway (except Svalbard), Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain (except Ceuta and Melilla), Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom |
| Oceania^a | Australia ^a , Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawaii, Kiribati, Micronesia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Vanuatu |

This information can be found on the CDC website using the following link:
<http://www.cdc.gov/animalimportation/rabies-free-countries.html>

A dog originating in a country/locality not on the above list and travelling without a valid rabies vaccine certificate may be denied entry into the U.S. The Dog Confinement Agreement (CDC form 75.37) will now only be available at a U.S. port of entry and on a case-by-case basis. Any exceptions will require CDC approval in advance of the shipment.

Why: The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has issued new rules pertaining to rabies vaccination requirements for dogs entering the U.S. from international locations.

Procedure: The PetSafe desk will inform shippers of this change in advance of their shipments and provide a link to the CDC web site where the information can be found.

<http://www.cdc.gov/animalimportation/bringinganimaltous.html>

It is the Shipper's responsibility to comply with CDC requirements pertaining to rabies vaccinations.

International stations accepting dog shipments must verify country of origin based on the health certificate. If a rabies vaccination certificate is presented by shipper at time of tender, it must reflect that the vaccination was administered at least 30 days prior to travel and that the dog is at least 4 months old.

If the shipper has received permission for entry of dog into the U.S. without the rabies vaccination certificate, a CDC A Dog Confinement Agreement (CDC for 75.37) form must be presented by shipper at time of tender.