Suspension of Dogs Entering the United States from Countries at High Risk for Rabies

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Purpose and Audience

**Purpose:** To review the temporary suspension of dogs entering the U.S. from countries at high risk for canine rabies virus variant

**Audience:** International air carriers
The What and Why: A temporary suspension of dog importations from countries at high risk for canine rabies
CDC’s Temporary Suspension of Dog Importations from Countries at High Risk for Rabies

Effective July 14, 2021, no dogs* arriving from rabies high-risk countries will be allowed entry into the U.S.

Suspension also includes dogs that have visited a high-risk country in the past 6 months, even if they are arriving from a country not at high risk.

CDC will review this suspension periodically.

*Exceptions apply and dogs must have a valid CDC Dog Import Permit. See further slides.
Why Is CDC Taking This Action?

To ensure the health and safety of dogs imported into the United States

To decrease attempts to import inadequately vaccinated dogs

To protect the public’s health against the reintroduction of canine rabies virus variant


FAQs on Temporary Suspension: https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/faqs-about-high-risk-dog-ban.html
The Where: High-risk countries for canine rabies

Dogs arriving from these countries and dogs that visited these countries in the past 6 months cannot enter the US
List of countries classified by CDC as high risk for rabies:
https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/high-risk.html
The Who: Those Who Can Apply for a CDC Dog Import Permit

Exceptions to the Suspension
Exceptions to the Suspension: How to Obtain a CDC Dog Import Permit for a Dog from a High-Risk Country

CDC Dog Import Permits are granted on an extremely limited case-by-case basis.

Permits will not be issued at ports of entry.

Submit applications for CDC Dog Import Permit to cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov at least 30 business days (6 weeks) before planned travel to the US.

How to apply for a permit: https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/apply-dog-import-permit.html

Permit application instructions: https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/import-permit-application-instructions.html
Who Can Apply for a Permit?

Personal pet owners must be one of the following:

- U.S. government employee with either:
  - Permanent change of station
  - Temporary duty orders
- U.S. citizen / lawful U.S. resident permanently relocating to the U.S.
- Potential reasons to relocate include employment, education, etc.
- Owner of a service dog, as defined in 14 CFR part 382
Service Dogs: DOT Americans with Disabilities Act

“Service animal means any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability”

Does not include: emotional support animals, comfort animals, companionship animals, and service animals in training

DOT = Department of Transportation
Who Can Apply for a Permit? (2)

Owners of dogs that are not personal pets must be importing:

- **Research/working dogs**

  Only permitted for **science, education, exhibition, or law enforcement** purposes
Who Cannot Apply for a Permit?

CDC Dog Import Permits for dogs from high-risk countries will **NOT** be issued to import dogs for:

- Rescue, resale, or transfer of ownership
- Short-term travel to and from high-risk countries with personal pet dogs
- Brokers, agents, shippers may not apply on behalf of an importer.
The How: Permit Application Requirements
Permit Application Requirements

The dog must meet four requirements:

1. Be at least 6 months old
2. Be microchipped
3. Have a valid rabies vaccination certificate
4. Have a rabies serologic titer from an approved laboratory if vaccinated outside of the United States
Permit Application Stipulations

Application submission does **NOT** guarantee approval.

Denied permit applications **cannot** be appealed.

Dogs with a CDC Dog Import Permit **must** enter the US through a port of entry (POE) that has a live animal care facility with a CBP-issued FIRMS code.*

Current approved POE: **JFK International Airport** in New York City. Approved list of POEs updated here: https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/apply-dog-import-permit.html

Importers may be granted permits for a maximum of **3** personal pet dogs for **only one trip** during temporary suspension.

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*A FIRMS code is a four-digit identifier assigned by US Customs and Border Protection (CBP).*
How to Review: CDC Dog Import Permits

CDC Logo (Step 1)

PHS Permit Number (Step 1)

Date Issued (Step 2)

Expiration Date (Step 2)

Dog Identification (Step 3)

Arrival Information (Step 4)
The How: Denied Dog Entry Process
In What Situations Will Dogs Get Denied Entry?

If the dog is arriving from a high-risk country and:

- It does not have a valid CDC Dog Import Permit
- It arrives with a permit, but at a non-approved POE
- Dog does not match the permit presented upon arrival

Dogs not meeting requirements will be denied entry and returned to country of departure at importer’s expense.
Summary
Effective July 14, 2021, CDC is temporarily suspending importation of dogs from rabies high-risk countries.

CDC Dog Import Permits will be granted on an extremely limited case-by-case basis.

Dogs without a permit will be denied entry and returned to the country of departure at the owner’s expense.

No permits will be given upon arrival, and no appeal will be given for denied permit applications.
For Airlines: How to Review a CDC Dog Import Permit

This job aid provides airlines with step-by-step guidance in how to review a CDC Import Dog Permit.

Steps to Review a Permit
1. Ensure CDC logo and permit number are included.
2. Confirm the permit number has not expired (permit is valid between the date of issue and expiration date).
3. Verify the dog presented to the airline agents matches the description on the permit.
4. Confirm arrival information. The arrival date can be different than the flight date due to changes in travel plans. As long as travel is occurring between the dates issued and the permit expiration date, travel can occur.

Permit Elements
- CDC Logo (Step 1)
- PHIS Permit Number (Step 1)
- Date Issued (Step 2)
- Expiration Date (Step 2)
- Dog Identification (Step 3)
- Arrival Information (Step 4)

Additional Resources
- High-Risk Dog Ban Federal Register Notice
- FDA: Dogs from High-Risk Countries
- High Risk Countries for Dog Rabies
- Bringing a Dog into the United States

Contact the CDC Quarantine Station with jurisdiction.

Air Carrier Responsibilities for Dogs Coming from High-Risk Countries for Dog Rabies

This guidance outlines the responsibilities and requirements for air carriers to screen dogs coming from high-risk countries for dog rabies arriving in the United States. Your vigilance will help protect from rabies the public’s health and the health of your workers as well as the animals. Below is a summary of key points: Important details follow on next pages. This guide starts on July 14, 2021.

Your responsibilities BEFORE accepting a shipment
- Know a list of high-risk countries for dog rabies.
- Be familiar with changes in the rules and who can bring dogs with a CDC Dog Import Permit.
- Understand dogs with a CDC Dog Import Permit can only arrive at JFK International Airport.
- Don’t accept dogs that don’t meet US entry requirements. Check the dogs and their importation documents.

Once an animal is onboard to your aircraft, you’re responsible for the animal’s welfare.

What to do BEFORE boarding or loading
1. Look for where the dogs are coming from. Ask where they’ve been within the past 6 months.
2. If coming from any high-risk countries for dog rabies, deny boarding. DON’T accept these dogs as cargo or carry-ons. (Unless at JFK and they have a CDC Dog Import Permit)
3. If you allow them to board or load and arrive in the United States, see your responsibilities below.

Your responsibilities AFTER a shipment arrives
- Hold animals if US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) or CDC requires.
- Transport sick or injured animals to a veterinary facility.
- Package, refrigerate, and transport dead animals to a testing facility if required.

If animals are denied entry:
- Hold animals denied entry in a facility that meets USDA APHIS Animal Care Animal Welfare Act Standards.
- Pay for costs if an importer abandons any animals denied entry. The carrier is responsible for their return or destruction, including any associated costs.
- Return animals denied entry to the country of origin on the next available flight.
- Provide proof of return to CDC and CBP once the animals have been returned.

For more information, see job aid on Air Carrier Responsibilities for Animal Importations.
Resources and Links


How to apply for a dog import permit (and list of approved POEs): [www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/apply-dog-import-permit.html](http://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/apply-dog-import-permit.html)


For more information on the temporary suspension, please contact the Zoonoses Team at CDCanimalimports@cdc.gov

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.