

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

This guidance outlines the responsibilities for air carriers to screen dogs coming from high-risk countries for dog rabies arriving in the United States. Your vigilance will help protect the public's health from rabies and the health of your workers and the animals. Below are key points. Updated [guidance](#) is effective as of June 10, 2022.

## Your responsibilities **BEFORE** accepting a shipment

- **Know** [list of high-risk countries](#) for dog rabies.
- **Be familiar** with changes in the rules. As of June 10, 2022, dogs from [high-risk countries](#) must appear healthy, be microchipped, and be at least 6 months of age. Dogs from high-risk countries may be imported **only with**:
  - **Option A: A valid US-issued [rabies vaccination certificate \(RVC\)](#).** Dog must enter at one of 18 airports with a CDC Quarantine Station.\*
  - **Option B: A valid [CDC Dog Import Permit](#).** Dog must enter at one of 18 airports with a CDC Quarantine Station.\*
  - **Option C: A reservation at a CDC-approved animal care facility (see one of 4 locations below†).** The CDC-approved animal care facility will determine if the dog has a valid foreign-issued RVC and rabies serology titer result.
    - Dogs must have a valid RVC prior to arrival. Dogs without a valid RVC will be denied entry.
    - Dogs with a valid titer must be examined by a USDA-accredited veterinarian and re-vaccinated at a CDC-approved animal care facility at the importer's expense.
    - Dogs without a valid titer must be examined by a USDA-accredited veterinarian, re-vaccinated, and quarantined for 28 days at the CDC-approved animal care facility at the importer's expense.
- **Don't accept** dogs that don't meet US entry requirements. Check dogs and their importation documents. **Once an animal is on board your aircraft, you're responsible for the animal's welfare.**

## What to do **BEFORE** boarding or loading dogs

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, do not accept these dogs as cargo or carry-ons unless they meet Option A, B, or C above. Airlines may review US-issued RVCs (Option A) and CDC Dog Import Permits (Option B), or verbally confirm dogs have a reservation at an approved facility (Option C).
3. If you allow them to board or load and arrive in the United States, see your responsibilities below.

## Your responsibilities **AFTER** a dog 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** 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. Dogs from high-risk countries without a US-issued RVC, permit, or reservation at the approved animal care facility will be denied entry.
- **Return animals** to the country of origin on the next available flight.
- **Provide proof** of return to CDC and CBP once the animals have been returned.

\*18 airports for dogs entering with a valid US-issued RVC (Option A) OR Valid CDC Dog Import Permit (Option B)

Anchorage (**ANC**), Atlanta (**ATL**), Boston (**BOS**), Chicago (**ORD**), Dallas (**DFW**), Detroit (**DTW**), Honolulu (**HNL**), Houston (**IAH**), Los Angeles (**LAX**), Miami (**MIA**), Minneapolis (**MSP**), New York (**JFK**), Newark (**EWR**), Philadelphia (**PHL**), San Francisco (**SFO**), San Juan (**SJU**), Seattle (**SEA**), and Washington DC (**IAD**).

†CDC-approved animal care facilities (Option C):

Atlanta (**ATL**), Los Angeles (**LAX**),  
Miami (**MIA**), and New York (**JFK**).



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention  
National Center for Emerging and  
Zoonotic Infectious Diseases