

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 [new rule](#) starts on July 14, 2021.

Your responsibilities **BEFORE** accepting a shipment

- **Know** [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 onboarded 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 going to 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](#).



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