

# 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 as well as the health of your workers and the animals. Below is a summary of key points. This [rule](#) began 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 that dogs from high-risk countries may only be imported with:
  - **A valid US-issued [rabies vaccination certificate](#) (dog must be microchipped and at least 6 months of age) OR**
  - **A valid [CDC Dog Import Permit](#)** (if importer is eligible to apply).
- **Understand** dogs from high-risk countries with either a US-issued rabies vaccination certificate or a CDC Dog Import Permit can only arrive at an [approved port of entry](#) (POE). See list below.
- **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 are going to an [approved POE](#) **AND** accompanied by:
  - a. A Valid US-issued [rabies vaccination certificate](#) (dog must be microchipped and at least 6 months of age)  
**OR**
  - b. A valid [CDC Dog Import Permit](#) (if importer is eligible to apply)
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.
- **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.

## Approved POE for entry of dogs with a valid US-issued rabies vaccination certificate OR a valid CDC Dog Import Permit

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**).

***For more information, see "Air Carrier Responsibilities for Animal Importations," "How to Review a CDC Dog Import Permit," and "How to Review a US-issued Rabies Vaccination Certificate" job aids.***



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention  
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