

International Travel Information Sheet

Please note that Providence River Animal Hospital is unable to take new clients that need international travel certificates at this time.

What documentation does my dog or cat need to travel?

Individual countries have different requirements. Most countries require an International Health Certificate stating a pet is up to date on required vaccinations, free of contagious disease, and healthy enough to travel. These certificates are checked when you go through customs. Some countries, such as China and Australia, require rabies titer testing, and may have additional vaccine or parasite treatment requirements. If you are flying interstate with your pet, you may need an interstate Health Certificate or other documentation. Hawaii is rabies-free and any dog entering the state must have rabies titer testing performed. Certain states and countries may also require you to contact local health or agriculture departments and send them documentation in advance of your arrival.

The USDA's Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) regulates pet travel. Visit aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel for information about specific state and country requirements.

Can I get a health certificate for my dog or cat at PRAH?

PRAH offers help with pet travel documentation for dogs and cats on a case-by-case basis. Our capacity for this service is limited, as we only have one USDA accredited doctor on staff, so we recommend calling at least two to three months in advance of anticipated travel to start the process.

What information do I need to schedule a health certificate appointment?

Before scheduling your appointment, we will need to know your anticipated travel date. Most countries require a health certificate exam to be performed within 10-14 days of travel. We will also need to know your destination country and any stops you will be making along the way. If your pet has received veterinary care at another facility, we will need those records, especially any history of rabies vaccination. We will also need to know your pet's microchip status, as most countries require a pet to be microchipped in order to enter. Please send records of your pet's vaccination history and microchipping (if applicable) when you make your appointment, as this will expedite the process on the day of the appointment. You can email those records to info@prah.vet.

What will happen on the day of my appointment?

The doctor will perform a full physical exam and administer any anti-parasite treatments or vaccinations required for the health certificate. If your pet shows any signs of contagious disease, including the presence of parasites such as fleas or ticks, we will not be able to complete the certificate, so make sure your pet has been up to date on routine vaccines and preventives. Once all the paperwork is filled out, we send it to the USDA for endorsement. For most countries, the USDA can endorse the paperwork digitally and then overnight ship it to you so that you can present it to customs. Plan to purchase an overnight shipping label on the USPS or UPS websites and email it to us, so that we can upload it with the health certificate.

How long will it take the USDA to endorse the health certificate?

We try to schedule your health certificate appointment as far in advance of travel as we can to give the USDA as much time as possible to endorse. Unfortunately, once we send the paperwork to them, we don't have any control over the endorsement process. We have been experiencing increasing delays with endorsement and have had a few clients change their travel plans because they did not receive the endorsed certificate on time. The majority of our clients have not needed to do this, but we recommend you have a backup plan in case of delays.

What about returning to the U.S. with my pet?

Currently, there are no additional requirements to return to the U.S. with a cat. However, the CDC has recently updated entry requirements for dogs, including those that originate from within the U.S. and have traveled to other countries. If you will be traveling with your dog to a high risk rabies country, you will need additional documentation to re-enter the U.S. with the dog. Otherwise, anyone re-entering the U.S. with a pet dog will need to fill out the CDC's dog import form, which is a straightforward and free process.

The list of high risk countries for canine rabies can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/high-risk-countries.html>

The CDC's dog import form can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/dog-import-form-instructions.html>

How much does all of this cost?

The cost of health certificate documentation varies depending on the requirements of your destination. The USDA charges endorsement fees for reviewing paperwork, and rabies titer testing and other required treatments can increase the cost of the process. In general, the process can cost anywhere from \$900 to \$2000 per pet. We can make estimates for individual

countries on request.