



Reference: USA dogs

Taking pet dogs to the United States of America

If your situation differs in any way from the proposed process, or if you have information from the veterinary authority of the importing country that differs from the process described below, please contact your local state veterinarian to discuss the matter.

Exporters are advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in South Africa, in advance of each consignment.

General Requirements:

- A health check within 5 days of travel (dogs).
- A valid rabies vaccination –
 - ✓ All dogs vaccinated for rabies for the first time (ie. primary vaccinations) must be vaccinated at least 28 days prior to arrival.
 - ✓ Booster vaccinations have no waiting period. In the case where an adult dog (15 months or older) received a primary vaccination after 3 months of age that has since expired, they may receive a booster and then travel immediately without having to wait 30 days.
- Puppies must not be vaccinated against rabies before 3 months of age, the rabies certificates must include puppy's date of birth/age.
- A current, valid rabies vaccination certificate that includes the following information:*
 - Name and address of owner.
 - Breed, sex, age, colour, markings, and other identifying information for the dog including the dog's microchip number.
 - Date of rabies vaccination and vaccine product information.
 - Date the vaccination expires.
 - Name, license number, address, and signature of **veterinarian** who administered the vaccination.

** Please note that beginning March 1, 2023, a valid CDC Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Record is the **only rabies vaccination certificate** that CDC will accept from dogs that were vaccinated outside of the United States. CDC will NOT accept foreign-issued pet passports or any other certificates for foreign rabies vaccinations, and any CDC Dog Import Permits or reservations at a CDC-approved animal care facility must also have a CDC Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Record attached. The CDC Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Record must be filled in completely and signed by the licensed*

veterinarian who administered the vaccine. In the event the veterinarian that vaccinated the dog has left the practice, a second veterinarian may complete the record if:

- A valid veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR) exists with the second veterinarian currently in the clinic in which the vaccinating veterinarian practiced medicine; and
- The dog's information (breed, sex, age, microchip) and vaccination history can be verified using the clinic's existing medical records

According to the CDC:

Starting from June 10, 2022 the USA now has three options A, B or C when bringing your dog/s into their country from a high-risk country for rabies such as South Africa depending on where the dogs' rabies vaccinations were administered, and the number of dogs being imported. All dogs from [high-risk countries](#) must:

1. Appear healthy on arrival
2. Be at least 6 months old.
3. Have a valid [CDC Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Record](#) or U.S.-issued rabies vaccination certificate. Rules vary depending on whether the dog was vaccinated in the United States or in a foreign country (see Option A, B or C).
 - The rabies vaccine must be administered by a licensed veterinarian on or after 12 weeks of age and at least 28 days before arrival if it is the dog's first vaccination.
 - Booster rabies vaccines administered after 15 months of age are valid immediately.
4. Have an [ISO-compatible microchip](#) for identification listed on their rabies vaccination certificate or [CDC Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Record](#).
5. Meet the requirements of either Option A, B, or C below.

Option A: The dog/s must have been vaccinated in the USA before they left the USA. A valid US-issued rabies vaccination certificate (RVC). There is no limit to the number of dogs with valid US-issued rabies vaccination certificates. Your dog must:

1. Appear healthy on arrival
2. Be at least 6 months old
3. The rabies vaccine must be administered by a licensed veterinarian on or after 12 weeks of age and at least 28 days before arrival if it is the dog's first vaccination.
4. Booster rabies vaccines administered after 15 months of age are valid immediately.
5. Have an [ISO-compatible microchip](#) number listed on their rabies vaccination certificate
6. Be accompanied by a valid US-issued rabies vaccination certificate upon arrival

- The rabies vaccine must be administered by a US-licensed veterinarian in the United States on or after 12 weeks of age and at least 28 days before arrival if it is the dog's first vaccination.
- Booster rabies vaccines administered in the United States after 15 months of age are valid immediately.

7. Arrive at one of the 18 airports with a CDC quarantine station:

- 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).
- *Important Note: Expired US rabies vaccination certificates will NOT be accepted. If the US-issued rabies vaccination certificate has expired, you must enter using Option B or C (see below).*

Option B: Apply for and obtain a valid *CDC Dog Import Permit* before arrival. CDC will only issue permits for 2 dogs per person during the suspension.

1. **You must apply online for a [CDC Dog Import Permit](#). It is recommended to apply at least 8 weeks before intended travel. Before beginning the process, your dog must:**

- Have a valid [CDC Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Record](#)
- Have a valid rabies serologic titer from an [approved laboratory](#). For dogs older than 15 months with booster vaccinations, make sure the [CDC Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Record](#) shows the current rabies vaccination and at least one previous rabies vaccination given when the dog was 12 weeks old or older if your dog's titer was collected less than 30 days from the date of the current rabies vaccination.

2. Arrive at one of the 18 airports with a CDC quarantine station:

- 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).

Important Note: Permits will not be issued at ports of entry. Appeals are not permitted.

Option C: For dogs without a US-issued rabies vaccination certificate or a *CDC Dog Import Permit*. Please note: This is the only option for persons importing 3 or more dogs into the United States.

1. Appear healthy on arrival
2. Be at least 6 months old
3. Have an [ISO-compatible microchip](#) number listed on their rabies vaccination certificate

4. Be accompanied by a valid [CDC Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Record](#) upon arrival
 - The rabies vaccine must be administered by a licensed veterinarian on or after 12 weeks of age and at least 28 days before arrival if it is the dog's first vaccination.
 - Booster rabies vaccines administered after 15 months of age are valid immediately.
5. Make a reservation at one of the [CDC-approved animal care facilities](#) with necessary follow-up services** at importer's (owner's) expense.
6. The CDC-approved animal care facility will determine if the dog has a valid CDC Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Record and serology titer.
 - If **invalid** CDC Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Record: dog will be denied entry.
 - If **valid** CDC Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Record: CDC-approved facility will determine if the dog has a valid rabies serology titer***
 - If **valid** titer: Each dog must be examined and re-vaccinated with a US-licensed rabies vaccine by a USDA-accredited veterinarian at a CDC-approved animal care facility upon arrival at the importer's (owner's) expense.
 - If **invalid** titer or no titer: Each dog must have a reservation to quarantine at a CDC-approved animal care facility for 28 days after the exam and re-vaccination at the importer's (owner's) expense.
- **Important Note: Option C is the only option for people with 3 or more foreign-vaccinated dogs. Dogs MUST enter at the airport associated with the CDC-approved animal care facility where they have a reservation, and the reservation MUST be made before arrival in the United States.**

**Follow-up services (e.g., examination, re-vaccination, and possible 28-day quarantine) are at importer's (owner's) expense.

***Titer must be from an approved lab drawn at least 45 days and no more than 1 year before arrival.

Additional USDA requirements:

1. Have been inspected for screwworm within 5 days prior to shipment to the United States and they are free from screwworm.
2. Their fur and bedding are free of excessive dirt, hay, or straw.

Procedure

- Your dog should be taken to your local private veterinarian for a health check.

- Your veterinarian should complete a Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC) and CDC Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Record for the export of dogs from SA to the USA - Blank forms may be obtained from the State Veterinary (SV) office.
- The signed VHC as well as your dog's vaccination booklet, valid [CDC Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Record](#) and microchipping certificate (if applicable) should be brought to the SV office for certification. You should also have your driver's licence or ID book available.
- Certificate application cost can be found on the department's tariff list. Certificate is payable on appointment (Cost per application R200 each in 2023).
- Any other queries can be directed to the State Veterinarian on duty via the contact details below:

Office names, locations, contact details and availability for certification

Milnerton Veterinary export certification office

- Contact details: vetexport@westerncape.gov.za, tel: 021 808 5400, 021 8085401, 021 8085407 fax 021 808 5125
- Our new office operational since June 2015 is located at 22 Lobelia Street, Milnerton, alternatively the GPS co-ordinates are:
 - GPS Co-ordinates: 33.866870 S 18.503029 E
- At Milnerton Export Certification Office, clients are assisted by appointment only on Monday to Friday from 08:30am to 12:00pm (excluding public holidays).
- To make an appointment, clients are required to send an e-mail to vetexport@westerncape.gov.za with their required time slot. Please indicate the number of pets you are exporting in your e-mail when you make an appointment with us. Should your requested time slot not be available our office will call/e-mail you to reschedule.
- Clients are required to make an appointment 5 **working** days advance.

Head office of the Department of Agriculture at Elsenburg /Boland state vet office

- Responsible for the greater Cape Town area, Paarl, Wellington, Franschhoek, Stellenbosch, Somerset West and Gordon's Bay.

- **Contact details:**

Office reception

Telephone: 021 808 5253

E-mail: SVBoland@westerncape.gov.za/ Renee.Jack@westerncape.gov.za

Dr. Vivien Malan

Vivien.Malan@westerncape.gov.za

Telephone: 021 808 5028

- Our offices are located at the Head office of the Department of Agriculture at Elsenburg. When searching on Google maps, use 'Provincial Department of Agriculture'

- GPS Co-ordinates Elsenburg Head Office: 33.845259 S 18.834722 E
- Clients are assisted by appointment only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 08:30am to 12:00pm

Malmesbury State vet office

- Responsible for the magisterial districts of Malmesbury, Moorreesburg, Hopefield, Vredenburg, and Piketberg.

- **Contact details:**

Office reception

Telephone: 022 433 8910

Email: DOA.svmalmesbury@westerncape.gov.za / Samantha.Burger@westerncape.gov.za

Dr. Michael Swart

Michael.Swart@westerncape.gov.za

Telephone: 022 433 8915

- Our offices are located at on the corner of Spoorweg and Municipal Streets, Malmesbury.
- GPS coordinates 33.465701 S, 18.721446 E
- Clients are assisted by appointments only – please make an appointment timeously by contacting Samantha Burger as the State Vet Dr Michael Swart is not always available.

Vredendal State vet office

- Responsible for the magisterial districts of Vredendal, Clanwilliam and Van Rhynsdorp.

- **Contact details:**

Office reception

Telephone: 027 201 3510

Email: DOA.svvredendal@westerncape.gov.za / Deidre.Daniels@westerncape.gov.za

Dr Chanel Lombard

Chanel.Lombard@westerncape.gov.za

- Our offices are located at on the corner of Matzikama Street and North Road, Vredendal.
- GPS coordinates 31.662625 S, 18.507298 E
- Clients are assisted by appointments only – please make an appointment timeously by contacting Deidre Daniels as the State Vet is not always available.

George State vet office

- Responsible for the magisterial districts of George, Riversdale, Mossel Bay and Knysna.

- **Contact details:**

Office reception

Telephone: 044 803 3770/1

Email: SVGeorge@westerncape.gov.za / shirelle.strydom@westerncape.gov.za

Dr Leana Janse van Rensburg

Leana.JanseVanRensburg@westerncape.gov.za

- Our offices are located at 4 Varing Avenue George.
- GPS coordinates 33.57.31 S, 22.27.16 E
- Clients are assisted by appointments only – please make an appointment timeously.

Beaufort West State vet office

- Responsible for Beaufort West, Prince Albert, Laingsburg and Murraysburg

- **Contact details:**

Office reception

Telephone: 023 414 9220/1

Email: DOA.svbeaufortwest@westerncape.gov.za/Chriszelda.Mtwalo@westerncape.gov.za

Dr Jaco Pienaar

Jaco.Pienaar@westerncape.gov.za

- Our offices are located in Blyth Street, Beaufort West.
- GPS coordinates 32.375009 S, 22.589063 E
- Clients are assisted by appointments only – please make an appointment timeously.

Swellendam State vet office

- Responsible for the magisterial districts of Swellendam, Heidelberg, Bredasdorp and Caledon.

- **Contact details:**

Office reception

Telephone: 028 425 4850

Email: DOA.svswellendam@westerncape.gov.za/ Bidwell.Gelwana@westerncape.gov.za

Dr Christi Kloppers

Christi.Kloppers@westerncape.gov.za

Telephone: 021 808 5059

- Our offices are located in the main road, 67 Voortrek Street, direct at the back of ABSA bank.
- GPS coordinates 34.02126 S 20.44140 E
- Clients are assisted by appointments only – please make an appointment timeously by contacting Bidwell Gelwana as the State Vet is not always available.

Worcester State vet office

- Responsible for the magisterial districts of Worcester, Robertson, Ceres and Montagu.

- **Contact details:**

Office reception

Telephone: 021 808 5050

Email: DOA.svworcester@westerncape.gov.za

Dr Ansulize Pepler

Ansulize.Pepler@westerncape.gov.za

Telephone: 021 808 5052

- Our offices are located at 30 Van Arckel street, Worcester.
- GPS coordinates 33.623641 S, 19.457008 E
- Clients are assisted by appointments only – please make an appointment timeously.

Oudtshoorn State vet office

- Responsible for the magisterial districts of Oudtshoorn, Ladismith, Van Wyksdorp, Calitzdorp, De Rust and Uniondale.
- **Contact details:**

Office reception
Telephone: 044 203 9443
Email: DOA.svoudtshoorn@westerncape.gov.za/Jenonise.Noni@westerncape.gov.za

Dr Cathy Fox
Cathy.Fox@westerncape.gov.za
Telephone: 044 203 9445

- For forms and procedures relating to ostriches, please contact the [South African Ostrich Business Chamber \(SAOBC\)](#)
- Our offices are located at 39 Van Der Riet Street, OUDTSHOORN, 6620
- Clients are assisted by appointments only – please make an appointment timeously by contacting Jenonise Noni, as the State Vet is not always available.