

# Importing Dogs and Cats from Other Countries into Colorado

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Dogs and cats coming into Colorado from other countries have to meet *up to 4* sets of import requirements:

- 1) Colorado import requirements
- 2) Port of entry state import requirements
- 3) Airline requirements (*vary by carrier*)
- 4) CDC import requirements

## 1) Colorado Requirements:

Cats and Dogs:

- Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued by an accredited veterinarian (or other country's equivalent of accredited veterinarian) within 30 days of arrival
- Current rabies vaccination (within the last 12 months) for cats greater than 3 months of age.

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/aganimals/cats>

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/aganimals/dogs>

## 2) Port of Entry State Requirements:

If the 'port of entry' into the United States is a state other than Colorado, the animal will also have to meet their import requirements.

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/aganimals/atom/256> (this is a pdf file with other state contact info)

## 3) Airline Requirements:

Airline requirements for pet travel vary by company and type of flight. *Possible* requirements include:

- health certificate within 10 days of flight
- certificate of acclimation within 10 days of flight
- proof of current rabies vaccination

Check with the specific air carrier regarding airline pet travel requirements.

## 4) CDC/USDA Requirements:

Cats and Dogs:

- Cats and dogs are subject to inspection at ports of entry and may be denied entry into the United States if they have evidence of an infectious disease that can be transmitted to humans. If a cat or dog appears to be ill, further examination by a licensed veterinarian at the owner's expense might be required at the port of entry.

Dogs only:

- Dogs entering the United States *from a country where rabies is present* must be accompanied by a current rabies certificate. (There is no CDC rabies requirement for cats.) [Rabies free countries can be found here](#) – all other countries are considered to be countries where rabies is present.
  - Dogs that have never been vaccinated against rabies must be vaccinated at least 30 days prior to arrival.
  - Dogs older than 15 months of age with an expired rabies vaccine must receive a booster vaccination, but then may be imported immediately without the need to wait 30 days
- Dogs entering the United States from [countries or regions where screwworm is known to exist](#) must be accompanied by a certificate meeting the following requirements:
  - Stating that the dog is either free from screwworm or was found to be infested with screwworm and was held in quarantine and treated until free from screwworm before leaving the region.
  - Signed by a full-time salaried veterinary official of the region of origin stating that the dog has been inspected for screwworm within 5 days before shipment to the United States.

<http://www.cdc.gov/animalimportation/cats.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/animalimportation/dogs.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/TravelWithPets/index.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/animalimportation/rabies-free-countries.html>

[CDC Countries affected with Screwworm](#)

[USDA-APHIS pet animal importation](#)

You can also call the CDC at 1-800-232-4636 or [\(404\) 639-3311](tel:404-639-3311) and/or USDA at (301) 851-3300 regarding international importation requirements.