

Country-Specific Requirements for Exporting Pets

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AGE

Since 14 July 2021 the USA have implemented new rules for the import of pets. The US only allows pets that are older than 7 months of age. Pets must have received their own Rabies Vaccination (youngest age allowed: 12 weeks), and a Rabies Titre (antibody blood test) is required at least 45 days before the flight.

MICROCHIP

The first step to exporting any pet is to ensure your pet is micro chipped. This step must be done before any vaccine is administered. The pet's microchip must be at least as old as the Rabies vaccination used for the export documents. The microchip must be a valid ISO microchip and has to be implanted by a registered vet.

RABIES VACCINATIONS

A rabies vaccination, older than 31 days, but no older than a year at the date of travel, must be administered. For export purposes Rabies is an annual vaccine.

RABIES ANTIBODY TEST (RNATT)

A blood test determining if the pet has antibodies against Rabies must be done no less than 31 days from the date of vaccination. A waiting period of a minimum of 45 days applies from the date that the blood is drawn for the test, to the day of the flight.

VACCINATIONS

It is always recommended to keep annual vaccinations up to date in all pets. This should be done according to a vet's directions. If any sort of kenneling will be required before or after the flight, kennel cough and snuffles vaccinations are a must. Deworming is to be kept up to date.

WORM TREATMENT

All dogs traveling to the US are required to be inspected by a private Vet to ensure pets are free of Screwworm within 5 days of travel

EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES

An official Veterinary Health Certificate, issued by a private vet, will be required. This certificate proves compliance with all regulations, and has to be stamped and signed off by the state vet. This should be done within 5 days prior to the flight.

IMPORT PERMITS & QUARANTINE

Import permit is an optional requirement for pets' entering from South Africa & Quarantine is not a requirement into the US unless requirements are not met.

APPROVED PORTS OF ENTRY

As from the 7th January 2022, the only 13 ports of entry for pets into the US are:

New York, Anchorage, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Honolulu

Los Angeles, Houston, Miami, Minneapolis, Newark, Philadelphia

Atlanta, San Francisco, San Juan, Seattle, Washington DC

Pets can be cleared into one of the 13 airports above as long as they have a CDC Permit and then rerouted onto their final destination by the appointed clearing agent.

Should you wish to choose the option of exporting a dog from South Africa into the States without a CDC permit then you can only do so into 5 CDC approved facilities in the US namely:

ATL – Atlanta, LAX – Los Angeles, JFK – New York

IAD – Washington, MIA - Miami



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Local and International Pet Travel

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