



**STEP BY STEP HOW TO ENTER PETS FROM PANAMA  
TO USA – US REGULATIONS**



**Update June 27 2024**

## REQUIREMENTS FOR PETS TO ENTER TO US FROM PANAMA

To introduce a pet into United State (dogs or cats), it is necessary to comply with the requirements that US has established for this purpose.

These are the steps to achieve it

- 1.- Pet Health Certificate, issued by Official and Qualified Veterinary Doctor, in which it certifies that the pet has been examined and that it does not show clinical signs of infectious and contagious diseases.
- 2.- It is suggested that the Health Certificate should attach the vaccination card, although it is not mandatory, it is good to attach it.  
The US recommends but isn't obligatory for Panama, that animals should preferably be vaccinated against Rabies, mainly for those coming from countries that are considered high risk, Panama isn't high risk for rabie.  
CDC has listed many countries that are considered high risk for rabies.

See the link below.

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/high-risk.html>

### **Screwworm**

Dogs traveling from countries or regions where [screwworm](#) is known to exist may enter the United States if they're accompanied by a certificate signed by a full-time salaried veterinary official of the region of origin (official government veterinarian) stating:

- The dog has been inspected for screwworm within 5 days before shipment to the United States, and
- The dog is either free from screwworm, OR
- The dog was infested with screwworm, held in quarantine, and treated until free from screwworm, before leaving the region.

3.- It is also suggested that, if possible and to facilitate processing at the port of arrival, this Health Certificate be written in both languages.

Recommend to include in the certification what is related to deworming against ecto and endoparasites and that the animal does not have fresh wounds or inflammatory processes.

All vaccine information must indicate the name of the vaccine, the date of vaccination, the manufacturer's name and lot number, the expiration date of the vaccine, and the validity of the vaccine.

4- The health certificate, which in Panama is usually signed by the appropriate veterinarian, also requires being countersigned by the official veterinarian (in this case from MIDA) and stamped attesting to the authenticity of the document.

5- Starting August 1, 2024 at 12:01AM ET, new rules go into effect. Use the DogBot to determine what rules apply to your dog based on the dates of travel and where your dog is traveling from.

CDC issues regulations to control the entry of dogs into the United States from other countries. These rules apply to all dogs, including puppies, service animals, and dogs that left the United States and are returning. They also apply whether you are a U.S. citizen, legal U.S. resident, or foreign national.

**If you don't follow CDC's rules, your dog won't be allowed to enter the United States.** If denied entry, your dog will be sent back to the last country of departure at your expense. Country of departure is where the last trip originated—not where the dog was born or where it lives.

**Why it's important now:** CDC updated its dog and cat importation regulation in 2024 to protect the health and safety of people and animals and prevent the reintroduction of dog rabies to the United States. The updated regulation will help keep Americans and their pets safe. It addresses recent challenges seen with international dog importations, including the challenges posed by fraudulent documentation.

**Standardization of the dog importation process**, including standard requirements for the minimum age of imported dogs, microchips, the *CDC Dog Import Form*, and other documentation, will streamline the importation process and allow for safer and more efficient entry of dogs into the United States.

#### **Dog from Countries Without High Risk of Dog Rabies**

**Dogs that have NOT been in a [high-risk country](#) in the past 6 months** may enter the United States through any port of entry, and importers **are NOT required by CDC to present rabies vaccination documentation**. However, when your dog enters the United States, you must provide a written or verbal statement your dog has NOT been in a high-risk country for rabies within the past 6 months or since birth if under 6 months of age. There is no limit to the number of dogs you can import. Panama is a country **not considered high risk**.



## Requirements for all dogs

All dogs must:

- Be at least 6 months of age at time of entry or return to the United States
- Have an implanted International Organization for Standardization (ISO)-compatible **microchip**.
  - This must have been implanted prior to any required rabies vaccination.
  - The microchip number must be documented on all required forms and in all accompanying veterinary records.
- Appear healthy upon arrival.
  - Dogs may not enter the United States if they are carrying a disease contagious to people.
  - Isolation of the dog, veterinary examination, and additional testing, at the importer's expense, may be required to determine if the dog has a contagious disease and prevent spread if the dog does not appear healthy upon arrival.
- Have a *CDC Dog Import Form* receipt.

This form should be filled out online ideally 2-10 days before arrival; however, it can also be completed right before travel (even in line at the border crossing) if you have internet access. If the information on the form changes before the dog arrives, you must submit a new form and indicate you are making changes to an existing form. All information, including port of entry where the dog is arriving, must be correct at time of arrival.

- This form requires you to upload a clear photograph of the dog showing its face and body. Dogs that will be less than one year of age at time of arrival should have the photograph taken within 10 days before arrival.
- There is no charge to importers for submitting this form.

6- Pets traveling from countries or regions where screwworm is known to exist may enter the United States if they are accompanied by a certificate signed by a full-time salaried Official veterinary of the region of origin stating: The dog has been inspected for screwworm within 5 days prior to shipment to the United States; and The dog is either free from screwworm OR The dog was infested with screwworm, held in quarantine, and treated until free from screwworm prior to leaving the region.

7- As a requirement of Panama and not of the US, the Panamanian authorities will request an Export License to leave Panama. This process is done online.

<http://siterpa.mida.gob.pa/>

I attach the format that you will see in the link. Fill in all the spaces, then click on add product, the information will be displayed below, check it again and if everything is correct, click on send, the System will generate a code. With that code you must go to Ventanilla Unica in Plaza Edison, 1st floor, request the Export License there. Tariff number for cats and dog is 0106 190000 and for parrots 0106 320000


Ventanilla Unica people will ask you for the code generate in the system application to search for it, and then you will have to pay \$10.00 for the Export License (you do this at the Banco Nacional of Plaza Edison or pay with your credit card)

Important: international health certificates are valid for 30 days, however, to withdraw the Export

License they require that this certificate not be more than 10 days old. Remember bring copy of Certifications and main page of Passport where the photo is.



Format on line to get Export License.

 **MINISTERIO DE DESARROLLO AGROPECUARIO**

[Iniciar sesión](#) [Crear cuenta](#) [Olvidaste la contraseña](#)

### Solicitud de Licencias Fito Zoo Sanitaria

**Información general de la licencia**  
Todos los campos con \* son obligatorios.

\*Tipo de licencia:  \*Condición de licencia:

Observación:

\*Lugar donde se tramitará:

**Datos del solicitante**

Nombre completo:  Cédula:

Correo electrónico:  Teléfono:

**Importador**  
Todos los campos con \* son obligatorios.

\*Nombre del importador:

\*Cédula / RUC de importador:

\*Dirección:

\*País:

Estado:

\*Ciudad:

\*Correo Electrónico:

\*Teléfono:  Móvil:

**Exportador**  
Todos los campos con \* son obligatorios.

\*Nombre del exportador:

\*Cédula / RUC de exportador:

\*Dirección:

\*País:

Estado:

\*Ciudad:

\*Correo Electrónico:

\*Teléfono:  Móvil:

**Información del producto**  
Todos los campos con \* son obligatorios.

\*Nombre del producto:

\*Finalidad:

\*Lugar/Puerto de ingreso:

\*Cantidad:  \*U. de medida:  \*Edad promedio:  \*Tipo de edad:  \*Sexo:

\*Color:  \*Especie:  \*Raza o variedad:

\*Código arancel (Formato xxxx.xx.xx.xx):  DIO del animal:  N° registro sanitario:

\*País de origen:  Estado(Estados unidos):  \*País de procedencia:  \*País destino:

\*Fecha de arribo:

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