

Interstate and International Pet Travel and Shipping Information

If you are traveling or moving with your pets, or will be in the future, please be aware that the regulations and requirements have changed, and unfortunately continue to change. This also applies to shipping or transporting animals (even in personal vehicles) into a different state or country for sale or adoption. The requirements for travel are much more restrictive than they have been in the past. This applies to both point of destination (individual US states and foreign countries) as well as individual airlines. If you have recently traveled in the past with your pets, please don't assume that you are aware of the necessary steps to take - even if you are going back to the same location or using the same carrier. Many airlines now have specific requirements and specific health forms that are required for animals to board as assistance or support animals, or when being shipped either in the cabin or as cargo. This is in addition to official health certificates required for entry at your destination. These regulations can (and do) change without notice. It is imperative that you check with your carrier well in advance of travel to be sure that you have all the required forms and that your pet meets the requirements for travel. You should verify who the information came from, and should recheck the information as your travel date gets closer. The same applies for individual states and foreign countries. Unfortunately there is no uniformly accepted standard, and many countries and states have very individual and very restrictive entry requirements. This is seen in its extreme for island territories such as Great Britain, Japan, Hawaii and others. The entry process for those and similar places can take more than 6 months, and requires very specific timing of microchip identification, vaccinations, and blood testing. Other states and countries require authorization that involves contacting individual localities to get the most recent regulations. This requires phone calls or emails to government agencies across different time zones, which often isn't a real quick process.

For all of these reasons, we are requiring that our doctors speak with you directly before scheduling appointments for health certificates and health forms. We need to know the specifics of your destination, the carrier you will be using, the timing of travel, and health records for any vaccinations that were not done at our clinic. We also need time to verify the entry requirements for your destination before official health certificates can be completed, which we are legally required to do. The timing of examination and issue is also often very specific as well. It takes time to make sure that all the requirements for travel are known and met, and therefore it is impossible for us to do this as a last minute request.

It is not our intent to make this process difficult. But the reality is that the process has gotten more complicated and more tightly regulated, and we are trying to be sure that you have what you need for your pet and that your travel or moving plans are not interrupted. Over the past few months, we have seen a few clients who were denied boarding on reserved flights because they did not have the correct paperwork and documentation required by the airline. We do our best to keep up with ever-changing regulations in the pet-travel industry. Ultimately you, as the pet owner, are responsible to be sure that all shipping requirements are met. We will do everything we can to help you in this process. Again, the bottom line is to do your homework well in advance of travel, verify your information, and give us the time we need to do the same on our end. Our goal is to make traveling with your pet as seamless and pleasant as possible. If you have any questions please talk to one of our doctors.

The following links have helpful pet travel information but are not intended to be the final word on current regulations. Please consult with the relevant authorities at your destination and your airline or other carrier for the most recent entry and transport requirements.

USDA Pet Travel Website:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel>

American Veterinary Medical Association Pet Travel Tips

<https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/Traveling-with-Your-Pet-FAQs.aspx>