



April 2021

Live Dog Import Permit Requirements under the Animal Welfare Act

The Animal Care program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) administers Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations (Title 9, Sections 2.150-2.153 of the Code of Federal Regulations) that set requirements for permits to legally import dogs into the United States for the purpose of resale. Animal Care works with its partners at U.S. ports of entry—the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—to ensure that these imported live dogs meet the AWA's health, age, and vaccination requirements.

Questions and Answers:

Q: What live dog imports are covered by the AWA?

A: The AWA and its regulations apply only to live dogs imported into the United States for the purpose of *resale* (described below).

Q: What does the term “resale” mean in terms of the import permit requirements?

A: Resale includes any transfer of ownership of a dog, for compensation, after it is imported. Examples include:

- Sales through retail or wholesale channels;
- Adoption for a fee or donation.

Q: What live dog imports are not covered by the AWA?

A: The AWA and its regulations do not apply when there is no resale of a dog after it is imported. Examples include:

- Pet, service, or working dogs traveling with or being delivered to their owners;
- Dogs participating in shows or events;
- Dogs that will be used as breeding stock but will not be resold;
- Dogs that will be used or trained as working dogs but will not be resold;
- Dogs transiting the United States to be resold in another country; and,
- Dogs purchased or adopted from a foreign source and delivered to the new owners who will not resell the dogs.

Q: What is required to import dogs into the United States for the purpose of resale?

A: All the following are required:

- Dogs must be at least 6 months of age;
- Dogs must be in good health and vaccinated for rabies, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parvovirus, and parainfluenza virus;
- Dogs must be accompanied by health and rabies vaccination certificates that certify the age, health, and vaccination requirements and are issued in English by a veterinarian with a valid license to practice veterinary medicine in the country of export; and,
- Dogs must be accompanied by an import permit issued by Animal Care.

Q: Are there exceptions to the age and vaccination requirements for dogs imported for the purpose of resale?

A: Exceptions to the age and/or vaccination requirements may be granted for the following:

- Dogs imported into Hawaii from the British Isles, Australia, Guam, or New Zealand;
- Dogs imported for resale for research purposes; and,
- Dogs imported for veterinary treatment and subsequent resale.

In such cases, contact Animal Care's Live Dog Import Team for guidance. See contact information below.

Q: How do I obtain an import permit?

A: You can apply for a live dog import permit online at: <https://efile.aphis.usda.gov>. We require applications to be submitted a minimum of five business days prior to importation to allow enough time for processing. For detailed step-by-step guidance on how to apply for permits, contact Animal Care's Live Dog Import Permit Team. See contact information below. You will need to obtain a USDA eAuthentication ID and password to gain access to the system. You may learn more about obtaining an eAuthentication ID online at: <https://www.eauth.usda.gov/home/>. There is no fee to obtain a permit.

Q: Are there other requirements for importing dogs?

A: Multiple agencies have requirements for importing live dogs. As an importer, you are responsible for complying with all Federal, State, and local regulations and requirements. We have links on our website to other agencies to assist you with understanding all requirements.

- For APHIS Veterinary Services requirements, please visit: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/pet-travel-home-page>.
- For CDC requirements, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/dogs.html>.
- To find contact information for the State of destination, please visit: <https://www.usaha.org/saho>.
- For U.S. Department of Homeland Security's customs requirements, contact the CBP office at your

www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/

port of entry. You can find contact information online at: <https://www.cbp.gov/contact/ports>.

Q: Who should I contact for more information about importing live dogs for resale?

A: For more information, please contact Animal Care's Live Dog Import Permit Team at:

USDA APHIS Animal Care
Live Dog Import Permit Team
2150 Centre Avenue, Building B
Mailstop 3W11
Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117

Phone: (816) 737-4223

Email: ac.dogimport.mailbox@usda.gov

Website:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare/awa/ct_awa_import_live_dogs_regulation

Additional Information

For more specific information about the Animal Welfare Act and its regulations and standards, please visit the USDA Animal Care website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare>.