



Consejería de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
en EE.UU. y Canadá
Embajada de España en Washington, DC.
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INFORMATION ABOUT THE NON-COMMERCIAL MOVEMENT OF PET ANIMALS TRAVELLING INTO SPAIN

1. Non-commercial import of dogs, cats and ferrets

Since **December 29, 2014**, the following **Regulations** apply to the non-commercial movement of pet animals travelling to the European Union (EU):

- **Regulation (EU) 576/2013:**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:178:0001:0026:en:PDF>

- **Regulation (EU) 577/2013**

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/ES/TXT/?qid=1416313496256&uri=CELEX:32013R0577>

For the purposes of these regulations, the following definition of **pet animal** applies: *dog, cat or ferret accompanying its owner or an authorized person during non-commercial movement, and which remains for the duration of such non-commercial movement under the responsibility of the owner or the authorized person.*

For the entry of pet animals from the US and Canada into Spain, the next requirements must be met:

1. **The entry of dogs, cats, or ferrets under three months of age**, and therefore not vaccinated against rabies, is not allowed. An animal will be considered vaccinated against rabies 21 days after the first vaccination.
2. The pet animals will enter the European Union accompanied by an identification document in the format of a **European Passport** (in the case of a pet animal coming back to the EU) or a **Health Certificate and Declaration of the owner or the authorized person**.
3. **Documentation and identity checks** of pet animals will be carried out at the point of entry of the Member State of the EU. The pet animal must be correctly identified and have a valid (not expired) vaccination against rabies (according to the Laboratory). Additionally, the animal health inspector will verify that the documents (health certificate and declaration or passport) accompanying the animal are correct.
4. If you travel with more than five pet animals, you will follow the requirements for commercial entry.
5. Under the new regulations, the **maximum number of pet animals may exceed five** if the following conditions are fulfilled:
 - the non-commercial movement of pet animals is for the purpose of participating in competitions, exhibitions, or sporting events (or in training for such events); and



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- the owner or the authorized person submits written evidence; and
 - the pet animals are more than six months old.
6. You must enter with you pet through one of the designated travelers' point of entry:

<https://www.mapa.gob.es/en/ganaderia/temas/comercio-exterior-ganadero/desplazamiento-animales-compania/default.aspx>

https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/comercio-exterior-ganadero/listapuntosdeentrada04122023_tcm30-537940.pdf

✓ Identification

Pet animals shall be identified by the implantation of a transponder (microchip) which must comply with ISO Standard 11784, apply HDX or FDX-B technology and be capable of being read by a reading device compatible with ISO Standard 11785. When the transponder does not comply with these requirements, the owner or the authorized person must provide the means necessary for the reading of the transponder upon arrival to the European Union.

The pet can also be identified by a tattoo if it is clearly readable and was applied before 3 July 2011.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The transponder must be implanted before or on the same day in which the rabies vaccination is administered. Rabies vaccines administered before the date of the implantation of the transponder won't be considered valid.

✓ Anti-rabies Vaccination

The **anti-rabies vaccination must be administered on the same day or after the implantation of the transponder** (or tattoo) and the entry to Spain won't be possible until 21 days after the first rabies vaccination. For booster vaccinations, no waiting period is required, provided the booster vaccine was administered before the expiration date of the prior vaccine. A vaccination will be considered a first vaccination if it took place after the valid period of the previous vaccine. A revaccination will also be considered a first vaccination if the pet animal was not identified with a transponder/microchip at the time of the previous vaccination (and must also wait 21 days to enter the EU).

✓ European Passport for pet animals

Dogs, cats, and ferrets returning to the European Union after travelling to the US or Canada may enter the EU accompanied by their passports (Health Certificate and Declaration won't be required).

The European Passport must be issued by a veterinarian at the European Member State of origin before departing to the US or Canada and the rabies vaccination must be valid (not expired).



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In the US and Canada veterinarians can't update the information (vaccinations or treatments) in the European Passport. If during your stay in Canada or the US the pet's vaccination expires, you will need the Health Certificate and Declaration to enter the EU.

European Passports issued after December 29, 2014, must comply with the requirements set in Annex III of Regulation 577/2013. If the passport was issued before that date the previous model will be valid.

For more information on Passports please visit the EU Commission's website: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2013/577/2019-11-01

✓ Health Certificate

Pet animals travelling to Spain without a passport or with a passport that needs to be updated before returning to the EU, must enter Spain with a [Health Certificate](#) in accordance with the model Annex IV of the Regulation (UE) 577/2013 that is sent together with this document

The Health Certificate is **valid for 10 days** from the date of issue by the official veterinarian until the date of the documentation and identity checks at the designated point of entry to the EU. List available at: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/movement-pets_en

In the case of transport by sea, that period of ten days is extended by an additional period corresponding to the duration of the journey by sea.

For the purpose of further movement into other Member States, this certificate is valid for a total of four months or until the date of expiry of the validity of the anti-rabies vaccination.

The **Declaration of the owner or the authorized person** must be attached to the Health Certificate and will be in accordance with the model in Regulation 577/2013. A certified copy of the identification and vaccination details of the animals concerned shall be attached to the certificate.

The certificate and declaration shall be drawn up in Spanish and in English in capital letters.

If additional sheets of paper or supporting documents are attached to the certificate, those sheets of paper or document shall also be considered as forming part of the original certificate as long as the signature and stamp of the official veterinarian on each of the pages.

The original certificate shall be issued by an official veterinarian of the territory or third country of dispatch or by an authorized veterinarian and subsequently endorsed by the competent authority of the territory or third country of dispatch. The competent authority of the territory or third country of dispatch shall ensure that rules and principles of certification are equivalent to those laid down in Directive 96/93/EC are followed. The color of the signature shall be different from that of the printing. This requirement also applies to stamps other than those embossed or watermarked.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The treatment against *Echinococcus multilocularis* is not necessary when travelling to Spain, but it is compulsory if the pet animal travels to Ireland, Malta, Finland, North Ireland or Norway. In addition, the rabies antibody titration test is not required if a pet animal



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travels from the US or Canada to Spain. Statements which are not relevant may be crossed out by the official veterinarian.

Who can sign the certificate?

➤ United States:

The Health Certificate may be filled out by any veterinarian accredited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA/APHIS), under the [National Veterinary Accreditation Program, NVAP](#)

However, once filled out, the certificate must be endorsed by an Official Veterinarian employed by the [Veterinary Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(VS/APHIS\)](#) of the Department of Agriculture.

Contact your local [Area Office of VS/APHIS](#) so that they may provide the necessary information for this procedure.

Please visit the APHIS website for more information:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/importexport/sa_animals/sa_pet_travel

➤ Canada:

The certificate may be signed by a licensed veterinarian and endorsed by an Official Veterinarian from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Contact your local [Animal Health Office](#) so that they may inform you about this procedure.

Please visit the CFIA website for more information:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/exports/live-animals/health-certificates/pets/eu-non-commercial-eng/1321396665054/1321464473817>

2. Commercial imports of dogs, cats and ferrets

The animal health requirements applicable to the commercial movement (import) of dogs, cats and ferrets exported to Spain can be found at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

<https://www.mapa.gob.es/en/ganaderia/temas/comercio-exterior-ganadero/import/default.aspx>

The EU regulations stipulate that dogs, cats and ferrets are considered commercial imports, if the following conditions are met:

1. they are intended to be sold or transferred to another owner



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2. the number of dogs, cats and ferrets which may accompany the owner or an authorized person during a single non-commercial movement exceeds 5
3. they are not traveling with owners or an authorized person responsible for such animals on behalf of the owner during their movement however they will be travelling **more** than 5 days earlier or 5 days later than the movement of the owner

Animals travelling to exhibitions and fairs would be considered a "non-commercial movement" as long as they are not for sale on-site.

3. Potentially dangerous dogs

In Spain, the possession of certain types of dogs is subject to special requirements. [Royal Decree 287/2002](#) of March 22 regulates the requirements to own animals deemed to be potentially dangerous, established by the [Law 50/1999 of December 23](#). We recommend reading both regulations (only available in Spanish) to check if your dog is considered as potentially dangerous. The requirements to own animals deemed to be potentially dangerous are required at the city of residence and not at the designated travelers's point on entry.

4. Frequent Asked Questions

This section includes the responses to the most frequent questions received from owners travelling to Spain from the US and Canada.

Q: My dog/cat/ferret just received a rabies shot. Can we travel to Spain immediately?

A: When an animal is vaccinated against rabies for the first time (first vaccination), it must wait a period of 21 days before it is allowed into Spain. If the vaccine is not the first the animal receive, but rather a booster shot administered before the previous vaccine's expiration, the wait period is not required. For example:

- Example 1: A dog is vaccinated for the first time on June 1, 2015: it won't be allowed into Spain until June 22, 2015;
- Example 2: A dog is vaccinated for the first time on June 30, 2012, for a three-year period, and the booster shot is administered June 1, 2015 (before the first vaccine's expiration date): it will be allowed into Spain as soon as June 1, 2015;
- Example 3: A dog is vaccinated on May 1, 2012, for three years, and the booster shot is administered on June 1, 2015 (after the previous vaccine's expiration date): the dog won't be allowed into Spain until June 22, 2015.



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Q: My dog/cat/ferret is less than three-month-old. Can I take it to Spain?

A: No. The entry of dogs, cats and ferrets of less than three months old is not allowed.

Q: How can I find out if my pet's microchip is compatible with standards ISO-11784?

A: It is likely that your veterinarian will know if the microchip is compatible.

- In the United States, you may check with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA): <https://www.avma.org/Pages/home.aspx>
 - In Canada you may check this list of compatible microchip manufacturers and distributors: <http://www.ncac-cnac.ca/>
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Q: What should I write in the space “Certificate Reference Number” of the Health Certificate?

A: The space for the reference number is reserved for the endorsing Veterinary Service Office (VS/APHIS or CFIA), to number the certificate according to their records system.

Q: I have travelled with my pet animal from Spain to the US or Canada and I'm returning to Spain. Do I need a Health Certificate?

A: If you travel to the US or Canada you may issue your EU pet passport before leaving Spain. The rabies vaccine on the passport must not have expired.. In this case you won't need to issue the Health Certificate and Declaration. The passport is also necessary if you live in the EU and you travel with your pet to another EU country.

Q: I'm travelling with my pet animal to Spain but afterwards we are returning to the US or Canada. What are the requirements?

A: Pet animals must comply with the requirements stated by the US and Canadian authorities. Certificates can be obtained at [Áreas de Agricultura / Contact details of Agriculture Units](#)

In order to enter into the United States with your pet visit the [CDC \(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention\)](#) web page. If you are returning to Canada, please visit the [CFIA \(Canadian Food Inspection Agency\)](#) web page.



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Q: The airline is asking me for a certificate of acclimatization or some guarantee that the animal is in condition to withstand the trip but I don't see that information on the certificate.

A: Each airline has its own regulations and requirements concerning the transport of pet animals. For more information about requirements for the flight, cage size, etc., please contact the airline's customer service.

Q: What requirements apply to service dogs/ service animal?

A: The same health requirements that apply to animal pets apply to service animals.

Q: Before going to Spain, I am going to travel through other countries in the European Union. Do I still need the Health Certificate in Spanish?

A: The health requirements have been harmonized in all of the European Union. However, If you're travelling to Ireland, Malta, Finland, Norway or North Ireland the treatment against *Echinococcus multilocularis* is necessary (but not required when travelling to Spain).

Q: I've read all the information provided but I still have a question. Who should I contact?

A: If you've read the information and you have further questions, please contact the animal health inspection service in your point of entry to the EU. The contact information can be found in the following links:

https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/comercio-exterior-ganadero/listapuntosentrada15062021_tcm30-537940.pdf

<https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/comercio-exterior-ganadero/desplazamiento-animales-compania/default.aspx>

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