



Reference: Canada dogs

Taking pet dogs and cats to Canada

If your situation differs in any way from the proposed process, or if you have information from the veterinary authority of the importing country that differs from the process described below, please contact your local state veterinarian to discuss the matter.

Exporters are advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in South Africa, in advance of each consignment.

Please check this website for the most up to date information:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/imports/policies/live-animals/pets/eng/1326600389775/1326600500578>

Please note that South Africa is not rabies free when navigating the site.

Requirements

Canada recognises 4 categories of dogs and depending on the category in which your dog falls under, the necessary requirements are determined accordingly. There is only one condition for cats.

Canada does not require a waiting period between the time the animal is vaccinated for rabies and the time the animal is imported into Canada.

Dogs less than 8 months of age, accompanied by their owner

Rabies certificate*

Dogs less than 8 months of age, unaccompanied by their owner

Rabies certificate* AND

A veterinary health certificate

Dogs less than 8 months of age travelling for commercial purposes

- Rabies certificate* (does not apply to animals younger than three months old).
- A veterinary certificate of health whether or not they are accompanied by their owner.
- A microchip.
- An import permit.

Dogs more than 8 months of age

Rabies certificate*

Cats

Rabies certificate*

*What is a Rabies certificate?

- Written in English or French.
- Issued and signed by a licensed veterinarian.
- Identifies the animal (as in breed, colour, and weight).
- State that the animal is vaccinated against rabies.
- Indicate the date of vaccination.
- Indicate the trade name and the serial number of the licensed vaccine; and
- Specify the duration of immunity (otherwise, it will be considered valid for one year from the date of vaccination).

If you have had your pet vaccinated by a registered veterinarian, then the book or certificate they provide you as proof of this vaccination should meet all these requirements but please check this if you are unsure.

Procedure if you require a Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC) in order to travel

- Your pet should be taken to your local private veterinarian for a health check within 72 hours of arrival in Canada.
- Your veterinarian should complete a standard VHC. Blank forms may be obtained from the state vet (SV) office or the Elsenburg.com website.
- The signed VHC as well as your pet's vaccination booklet and microchipping certificate (if applicable) should be brought to the SV office for certification. You should also have your driver's licence or ID book available.
- Certificate application cost can be found on the department's tariff list. Certificate is payable on appointment (Cost per application R130 each in 2017).