



Reference: Canada dogs and cats updated 2023

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 6 categories of dogs and depending on the category in which your dog falls under, the necessary requirements are determined accordingly. There are two conditions 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 3 months of age, accompanied by their owner

Proof of the dog's age (you get this from a veterinarian)

Dogs less than 3 months of age, unaccompanied by their owner

Proof of the dog's age (you get this from a veterinarian)

A veterinary health certificate

Dogs older than 3 months but less than 8 months of age, accompanied by their owner

Valid rabies vaccination certificate*

Dogs older than 3 months but less than 8 months of age, unaccompanied by their owner

Valid rabies vaccination certificate* AND

A veterinary health certificate

Dogs less than 8 months of age travelling for commercial purposes

- Veterinary certificates of health and kennel of origin certificates: An official veterinarian must certify that the dog(s) was/were born in the kennel of origin and that the kennel meets the specific animal health criteria. The dog(s) must be vaccinated against rabies before export to Canada. They must be at least 3 months of age at the time of vaccination and there is a 28 day waiting period after vaccination before the animal is eligible for export. This means that dogs must be at least 16 weeks of age at the time of export. The dog(s) must be treated for internal and external parasites prior to export. The dog(s) has/have been vaccinated against canine distemper, canine adenovirus 2 (hepatitis), canine parainfluenza, and canine parvovirus, with vaccines licensed and approved for that purpose in the country of origin.
- Rabies certificate*
- A microchip.
- An import permit.

Commercial dogs brought into Canada would fall under one of these categories:

- dogs for resale
- dogs for breeding purposes, not for direct retail sale
- dogs for show or exhibition
- dogs for scientific research
- dogs for adoption or destined for an animal welfare organization in Canada
- dogs in special "training status"
- Canadian commercial dogs returning to Canada

Dogs more than 8 months of age

Valid rabies vaccination certificate*

Cats less than 3 months of age

Proof of the cat's age (you get this from a veterinarian)

Cats more than 3 months of age

Valid rabies vaccination 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 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 R200 each in 2023).

Any other queries can be directed to the State Veterinarian on duty using the contact details below:

Office names, locations, contact details and availability for certification

Cape Town Veterinary export certification office (VECO)

- Contact details: vetexport@westerncape.gov.za, tel: 021 808 5400, 021 8085401, 021 8085407 fax 021 808 5125
- Our new office operational since March 2024 is located at 34 Roeland St, Cape Town City Centre, Cape Town, 8000.
 - -33.9291839,18.4183276
- At VECO , clients are assisted by appointment only on Monday to Friday from 08:30am to 12:00pm (excluding public holidays).
- To make an appointment, clients are required to send an e-mail to vetexport@westerncape.gov.za with their required time slot. Please indicate the number of pets you are exporting in your e-mail when you make an appointment with us. Should your requested time slot not be available our office will call/e-mail you to reschedule.
- Clients are required to make an appointment at least 2 days in advance.

Head office of the Department of Agriculture at Elsenburg /Boland state vet office

- Responsible for the greater Cape Town area, Paarl, Wellington, Franschhoek, Stellenbosch, Somerset West and Gordon's Bay.
- **Contact details:**
Office reception
Telephone: 021 808 5253
E-mail: SVBoland@westerncape.gov.za
- Our offices are located at the Head office of the Department of Agriculture at Elsenburg. When searching on Google maps, use 'Provincial Department of Agriculture'
- GPS Co-ordinates Elsenburg Head Office: 33.845259 S 18.834722 E
- Clients are assisted by appointment only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 08:30am to 12:00pm

Malmesbury State vet office

- Responsible for the magisterial districts of Malmesbury, Moorreesburg, Hopefield, Vredenburg, and Piketberg
- **Contact details:**
Office reception
Telephone: 022 433 8910
Email: DOA.svmalmesbury@westerncape.gov.za
- Our offices are located at on the corner of Spoorweg and Municipal Streets, Malmesbury.
- GPS coordinates 33.465701 S, 18.721446 E
- Clients are assisted by appointments only.

Vredendal State vet office

- Responsible for the magisterial districts of Vredendal, Clanwilliam and Van Rhynsdorp.
- **Contact details:**
Office reception
Telephone: 027 201 3510
Email: DOA.svvredendal@westerncape.gov.za
- Our offices are located at on the corner of Matzikama Street and North Road, Vredendal.
- GPS coordinates 31.662625 S, 18.507298 E
- Clients are assisted by appointments only.

George State vet office

- Responsible for the magisterial districts of George, Riversdale, Mossel Bay and Knysna.
- **Contact details:**

Office reception
Telephone: 044 803 3770/1
Email: SVGeorge@westerncape.gov.za

- Our offices are located at 4 Varing Avenue George.
- GPS coordinates 33.57.31 S, 22.27.16 E
- Clients are assisted by appointments only.

Beaufort West State vet office

- Responsible for Beaufort West, Prince Albert, Laingsburg and Murraysburg

- **Contact details:**

Office reception
Telephone: 023 414 9220/1
Email: DOA.svbeaufortwest@westerncape.gov.za

- Our offices are located in Blyth Street, Beaufort West.
- GPS coordinates 32.375009 S, 22.589063 E
- Clients are assisted by appointments only.

Swellendam State vet office

- Responsible for the magisterial districts of Swellendam, Heidelberg, Bredasdorp and Caledon.

- **Contact details:**

Office reception
Telephone: 028 425 4850
Email: DOA.svswellendam@westerncape.gov.za/

- Our offices are located in the main road, 67 Voortrek Street, direct at the back of ABSA bank.
- GPS coordinates 34.02126 S 20.44140 E
- Clients are assisted by appointments only.

Worcester State vet office

- Responsible for the magisterial districts of Worcester, Robertson, Ceres and Montagu.

- **Contact details:**

Office reception
Telephone: 021 808 5056/2
Email: DOA.svworcester@westerncape.gov.za

- Our offices are located at 30 Van Arckel street, Worcester.
- GPS coordinates 33.623641 S, 19.457008 E
- Clients are assisted by appointments only.

Oudtshoorn State vet office

- Responsible for the magisterial districts of Oudtshoorn, Ladismith, Van Wyksdorp, Calitzdorp, De Rust and Uniondale.

- **Contact details:**

Office reception

Telephone: 044 203 9443/5

Email: DOA.svoudtshoorn@westerncape.gov.za

- Our offices are located at 39 Van Der Riet Street, Oudtshoorn, 6620
- Clients are assisted by appointments only.