



**TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION**  
 1-800-550-8242, Ext. 777 or 512-719-0777

## Summary of Texas Requirements

**For Intrastate, Interstate and International Livestock (Domestic and Exotic), Poultry and Ratites**

**Note:** The following summary is a condensed version of the Texas Animal Health Commission regulations. The regulations will supersede this summary if there is a dispute between the two.

### Dogs and Cats Entering the State

- Contact Texas Department of State Health Services at (512) 458-7255.

The Texas Animal Health Commission/State Veterinarian in Texas does *not* have any specific requirements for bringing pets into the state. However, there are certain requirements that must be met by the Centers for Disease Control and the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Please contact the appropriate agency should you have further questions.

**\*\*Traveler Tip\*\*** — Most airlines will require a health certificate issued by a veterinarian within 7-10 days of travel. Check with your airline and local veterinarian for details.

**For DOGS entering the US from other countries**, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have additional requirements, including a rabies vaccination within 30 days prior to entry OR quarantine of puppies less than three months of age. The CDC/US Public Health Service Division of Quarantine may be contacted at (404) 639-8107 or 1-800-232-4636.

**State of Texas rules for bringing dogs and cats into the state.** While the TAHC does not regulate movement of pets, the Texas Department of State Health Services does require certain criteria be met:

- Rabies vaccination in accordance with the policy of the Texas Department of State Health Services Zoonosis Control Group. For more information call 512-458-7255 or visit their [website](#).
- By state law, all dogs and cats 12 weeks of age or older (regardless of state/country of origin) must be vaccinated against rabies, and the time elapsed since the most recent vaccination must not have exceeded the recommended interval for booster vaccination as established by the vaccine's manufacturer. Dogs and cats entering Texas must be accompanied by a current rabies vaccination certificate from a veterinarian. This rule applies even to pets from rabies-free countries. See the DSHS website for more rabies vaccine details.
- The state of Texas does not require a health certificate for companion animals such as dogs and cats entering the state. However, many other states do require a health certificate, so check ahead before leaving Texas destined for another state with any animal.

### ***Helpful tips on International Import/Export of pets***

Exporting an animal from the US requires specific documentation and possible testing in advance, and may take weeks or months of preparation. You should start by contacting an accredited private veterinary practitioner to assist you in the process. Most licensed veterinarians are accredited, so start by discussing this with your personal veterinarian. You or your veterinarian should then contact the USDA Veterinary Services (VS) office in Austin as early as possible to receive specific instructions and entry requirements for the country to which you wish to ship animals. Generally, an international health certificate is issued by a local veterinarian and then sent



to the USDA Veterinary Services (VS) office. All paperwork is subsequently approved by that office (you do not actually have to take your pet to the Austin office) and returned to the veterinarian.

For moving ALL animals and animal products **out of the U.S. through Texas**, contact the USDA APHIS-VS-Texas Area office's **export desk** in Austin at **(512) 383-2411 Monday - Friday 8am - 4:30 pm**.

**Useful Export website links:**

- [USDA-APHIS National Center for Import and Export](#) or call (301) 734-8364
- [USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services Texas Export](#) or call (512) 383-2411

***International Import of Pets***

There are many different processes involved with importing species of live animals into the United States. U.S. import procedures are generally regulated by federal rules and agencies, rather than state entities. For the latest requirements and procedures for sending ALL animals, including live animals, semen, embryos, pets, livestock and animal products **into the U.S. through Texas**, contact the USDA APHIS-VS-Texas Area office's **import desk** in Austin at **(512) 383-2408 Monday - Friday 8am - 4:30 pm**.