

USDA Accredited Pet Health Certificates for Travel

Traveling with your pet requires preparation prior to departure. Most states require a health certificate to enter the state. If you are traveling internationally (or to the state of Hawaii), it is especially important to plan ahead as many countries have strict rules and regulations when entering with your pet. Depending on your final destination, it may take weeks or months to fulfill all the requirements. The doctors and staff at Stonecreek Animal Hospital are here to help you with this process. ***However, it is ultimately your responsibility as a pet owner to research and find out what requirements are needed for the state or country you are traveling to.***

Domestic/Interstate Travel (**except travel to Hawaii**)

Please call us at least 2-3 days before your health certificate is needed, so we can determine your pet's medical history is up to date. Most states require a current health certificate to enter the state. Your pet will need a full physical exam by an accredited veterinarian and be current on his/her vaccinations (usually the minimum requirement is rabies). If your pet was not vaccinated at Stonecreek Animal Hospital, you will need to bring a current rabies certificate (or copy of) and proof of any other vaccines that were given. Please be prepared to give us the name and phone number of the animal hospital where your pet's vaccines were given. You will also need to provide your current address and your destination address for the health certificate.

The USDA considers a health certificate valid for 30 days. However, many airlines require a health certificate to be issued within 10 days of travel. Please contact your airline for specific requirements.

**** For Pets Traveling to Hawaii****

Hawaii has its own special requirements as it is a rabies-free state. Traveling to Hawaii requires at least 6 months of preparation. At the minimum, your pet will need:

- 2 rabies vaccines in his/her lifetime (even if he/she is a puppy) including original rabies certificates
- a microchip
- a rabies titer
- 120 day waiting period after the rabies titer
- a tick treatment
- a health certificate
- a submission of all documents, notarized, 10 days prior to arrival and not faxed
- payment fee

We strongly recommend to go to the Hawaii Rabies Quarantine website and review their regulations for specific details and updates.

International Health Certificates / Traveling to Foreign Countries

If you're planning to travel internationally with your pet, there are a number of things to keep in mind as you prepare for the trip, including the need for a health certificate. We strongly recommend visiting the USDA website: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/pet-travel-home-page> This website usually has the most up to date requirements for each country. However, we also strongly recommend calling the country's consulate/embassy that you are visiting to get the most comprehensive requirements for entering with your pet.

International travel can often take several months of preparation. Some countries require their own health certificate in addition to the US International health certificate. If your animal does not have a valid health certificate, the country reserves the right to quarantine or even refuse entry to their country. Foreign countries may also have additional requirements, such as:

- Rabies titer
- A microchip identification
- Internal and external parasite treatments
- Additional vaccines such as Leptospirosis
- Notarization by a USDA veterinarian

Some country's health certificates are only good for 10 days, so careful planning is strongly urged.

Traveling with your pet can be both rewarding and frustrating. Thorough, advanced preparation can lessen some of the frustrations. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding health certificates or to schedule an appointment.