

## INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL WITH YOUR PETS

The staff at Great Falls Animal Hospital is glad to help you prepare for transportation of your pet to another country. Each country has unique requirements, thus it is necessary for you to contact the embassy of that country. Most foreign countries do not accept 3 year rabies vaccinations, so if your pet has had a 3 year rabies vaccine, most countries will only consider it valid for **one** year. In addition, each airline has specific requirements for animal cargo, thus you must also contact your airline carrier. You should determine what process needs to be followed as far in advance as possible. Some processes can take close to one year.

**You are responsible for obtaining the correct documents for your pet to enter the destination country. Make sure that they are completed correctly and your pet meets all the rules. If you do not, your pet may not be able to enter the country or may have to be licensed into quarantine on arrival. This will mean delay and cost you money.**

In particular, the **United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, Scotland, Sweden, Japan, Australia, and France** have specific requirements, which must be carried out in precisely the right order. Historically, procedures such as micro-chipping of your pet (tattoos are no longer be considered valid form of permanent ID in EU countries as of July 3, 2011), vaccinations, rabies blood tests, current negative stool exams and other treatments have been required. In addition, you are required to have paperwork evaluated by the USDA in Richmond or Annapolis.

### **The following contact information may be of help to you:**

**USDA** <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/>

Take the certificate in person to the Richmond office (the Annapolis office can used only if you schedule an appointment), you will need to schedule an appointment if you wish to have the certificate signed in person. In Virginia appointments are available Monday through Friday 9 AM to 3 PM, in Maryland appointments are available Monday through Friday 9 AM to 11 AM and 1 PM to 3 PM. You will be required to go through a security check when entering the federal building, you will need to show a valid state picture ID (drivers license):

USDA, APHIS, VS  
Federal Building  
400 North 8th Street, Room 726  
Richmond, VA 23219  
804-343-2567

USDA, APHIS, VS  
Federal Building  
1598 Whitehall Road Suite A  
Annapolis, MD 21409  
410-349-9708

USDA veterinarian for international health certificate approval (local office)

USDA charge for international health certificate \$37.00 for each pet, or if traveling to the following countries:

**United Kingdom, Sweden, Scotland, Republic of Ireland, and Japan the fee is \$117.00 for the first pet and \$6.75 for each additional pet. For pet dogs traveling to South Africa the fee is \$145.00 for the first pet and \$11.00 for each additional pet.**

**Fee reflected above are as of 10-1-2011. There will be another fee increase effective 10-1-2012**

CHECK or Money Order ONLY, payable to USDA, APHIS, VS.

To mail International Health Certificate (Annapolis offices ***may not be used*** for mail in services):

USDA, APHIS, VS 804-343-2567 fax 804-343-2599 email address VSVA@usda.gov  
Federal Building  
400 North 8th Street, Room 726  
Richmond, VA 23240

In order for USDA to send the certificate back to you by express packaging service, you must enclose a prepaid mailer and label with your address filled in (they can only pay return charges or postage for regular mail).

### **For travel to the UK**

**DEFRA** <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/>

You can get more information about the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) and quarantine by contacting Defra: **PETS helpline** Telephone: +44 (0)870 241 1710 (Monday to Friday 8:30 AM to 5 PM UK time) Fax: **+44 (0) 1245 458749**

Email: [pets.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pets.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk) (please enclose your postal address and a daytime telephone number)

**For travel to Australia** Protocols for exporting animals to Australia are available from <http://www.daffa.gov.au/aqis/import>

**For links to embassies:** <http://www.embassy.org/embassies/>

The **American Veterinary Medical Association** (AVMA) has important travel information on their website: [www.avma.org/services/VPRC/travel.asp](http://www.avma.org/services/VPRC/travel.asp)

### **Airlines**

You must check with your airline about their requirements. Some airlines only consider health certificates good for 14 days, where other airlines accept them 30 days after examination. Other airlines have their own health certificates that must be completed, in addition to the international health certificates.

### **Pet Relocation Companies**

Should you decide to use a pet relocation company, we have worked with **Air Animal Pet Movers**. They can simplify your move by taking care of all the details for you. Their phone number is 1-800-635-3448, their website is **www.airanimal.com**.

Another pet relocation company that we have worked with is **PAC (Pet air Carrier)**. PAC makes relocation of your pet less stressful by taking care of all the details for you. Their phone number is 1-888-293-2210, their website is **www.petaircarrier.com**.

**Pet Express Animal Transport** can also make your relocation easier for you and your pet. Their phone number is 415-821-7111 or 1-866-PET-MOVE (738-6683), their website is **www.Petmove.com**