

Requirements For Pets Entering the US and NYS from Ukraine

Prepared by the Committee on Animals and the Law, Ukraine Pets Project

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Introduction: We researched and compiled these federal and New York State regulations and documents to aid Ukrainian war refugees entering the US with their pets. If the requirements are not met, pets may be quarantined for a month or refused entry entirely.

Canine Rabies: This disease is responsible for 98% of human deaths from rabies. Ukraine is a country where rabies is widespread. In response, the United States has banned importing dogs from Ukraine through January 31, 2023, unless the requirements below are met.

Airline health & rabies certificates for travel: Airlines will require this for travel

<https://www.iata.org/en/programs/cargo/live-animals/>

Federal Regulations for Rabies Vaccine and Titer Result paperwork:

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/high-risk-dog-ban-frn.html>





US Customs & Border Entry Options

Option #1 CDC PERMIT

- Apply for a CDC Dog Import Permit BEFORE travel: <https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/apply-dog-import-permit.html>.
- Arrange for dogs to arrive at JFK airport in New York with their CDC Dog Import Permit

Option #2 RABIES TITER TEST RESULT WITH NO CDC PERMIT

1. Make a **reservation in advance** to arrive at The ARK Pet Oasis at JFK airport. The ARK Pet Oasis is the CDC-approved and required animal care facility. Request a reservation by emailing: Reservations@arkjfk.com or calling 1-212-973-8275. See <https://www.arkpetoasis.com/>
2. Present on arrival a **valid foreign-issued rabies vaccination certificate** for each dog
3. Present on arrival the results of a **valid rabies serology titer test** from an approved laboratory for each dog, drawn at least 45 days to 12 months prior to arrival
4. Dog will be examined by a USDA-accredited veterinarian working at The ARK at owner expense
5. Dog will be revaccinated at The ARK at owner expense

Option #3 NO RABIES TITER TEST RESULT AND NO CDC PERMIT

1. Make a **reservation in advance** to arrive at The ARK Pet Oasis at JFK airport. (see above)
2. Present on arrival a **valid foreign-issued rabies vaccination certificate** for each dog
3. Present on arrival the results of a **valid rabies serology titer test** from an approved laboratory for each dog, drawn at least 45 days to 12 months prior to arrival
4. Dog will be examined by a USDA-accredited veterinarian working at The ARK at owner expense
5. Dog will be quarantined at the ARK for 28 days after revaccination

Dogs arriving without a permit, or an ARK reservation will be denied entry and returned to the country of departure at owner expense.

Importing Dogs and Cats into New York State

All dogs and cats entering New York State must meet the two requirements below. Dogs must also meet CDC requirements listed above.

1. A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) or a Health Certificate issued 30 days or less prior to entry. If the country of origin does not have a CVI form or Health Certificate, New York accepts the required information on the veterinarian's letterhead. All information must be in English including:

- NY destination address
- Veterinary exam showing no evidence of infection, communicable disease, parasites, or fungi
- Statement from vet that animal has not been exposed to infectious disease

2. Rabies Certificate:

- Proof of a current rabies vaccination for animals 3 months of age and older.
- Rabies vaccine product name & date of vaccination on the CVI or vet letter (above)
- New York does not accept serology titer tests in lieu of rabies vaccinations
- New York does not accept European Union (EU) or other Pet Passports.

For dogs and cats in transit from another state. Dogs and cats traveling into New York State from another state within the United States must meet the same requirements as importing them from outside the United States. However, a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection or Health Certificate is not required if the animal is staying in New York for less than 30 days.

Federal Information. The following link includes CDC information on importing a pet into the United States summarized in this document: <https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/dogs.html>.

New York State Information. The following link includes NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets information on importing a pet into New York State summarized in this document: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/animals/companion-animals#:~:text=the%20Pet%20Passport.-,The%20requirements%20for%20importing%20dogs%20and%20cats%20into%20New%20York,the%20use%20of%20electronic%20CVIs>.

This information is current as of July 2022.