



International Travel Roadmap for Pet Owners

If you're planning an international trip with a pet, there's a lot of work your veterinarian will do to ensure that it goes smoothly. Here's what you can do to help your veterinary clinic prepare.

Give your veterinary office a heads up

Consult your veterinary clinic as soon as you have international travel plans in mind. Even if you don't have all of the details figured out, let your veterinarian know about your trip so they can start to figure out requirements ahead of time. Each country establishes its own requirements based on the type of animal traveling, and the approval process can take weeks to months. Giving your vet a heads up will help them plan accordingly for your office visit and documentation deadlines. Factors that can play into timeline includes:

- Does the destination country require the pet to have an import permit?
- Is a microchip required?
- Do required treatment, tests, or vaccines need to be given after the microchip was implanted?
- Does the destination country require vaccinations, treatment or laboratory tests to be given or preformed?
- Is there a time frame that the vaccine, treatments or tests have to be performed within?
- Is there a waiting period after the vaccinations, treatments, or laboratory tests have been performed?
- Is there a specific type of vaccine, treatment or test that must be used?

Be aware of the services that may be needed

It's a good idea to understand the services you may need from your veterinarian, depending on what country you're traveling to. Your veterinarian will be able to tell you for sure, but keep this information in mind:

- **Rabies vaccination:** your vet will need to sign a certificate to show your pet is up-to-date with their rabies vaccination, which means that if your animal isn't current on this, it will need to be vaccinated.
- **Health inspection:** most countries require a current Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), as well as a country-specific international health certificate, to show that a USDA-accredited veterinarian has examined the pet and performs all required testing, vaccinations or treatments.
- **ISO compliant (11784 or 11785) microchip:** while some countries may allow a 10-digit microchip, it's highly recommended to have the 15 digit ISO pet microchip to avoid issues while traveling.

Gather you pet and contact information

Get information for each person and animal that's going on the trip ready to share with your veterinarian. Your vet may have some or all of this information in their records already, but keeping it all in one place can only help. This includes:

- Home address
- Destination address (if different)
- Purpose of movement
- Person traveling with pet
- Pet name, age, breed, gender and weight
- Microchip ID number, implant date and implant location
- Vaccination and medication information
- Any pre-existing medical conditions

Summarize all of your trip details

Consolidate the details of your trip into one document that you can share with your vet as soon as you have them finalized, including:

- Destination country
- Departure date
- Trip duration
- Method of travel
- Airline
- Flight number
- Port of entry/border crossing

Keep copies of documentation

The original documents with original signatures must be presented to the country's customs officials when entering the country. However, it is recommended to make a copy of the documents and carry them with you, as some countries will require a copy to be kept by the customs officials.



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