

## Section 14: Regulations related to animal travel and importation and service animals

- 14-1 Rules on bringing dogs, cats or ferrets into WA State (WAC 16-54-170)
- 14-2 Federal regulations governing dog and cat importation into the US (CDC and USDA)
- 14-3 Commonly asked questions about service animals (King County Office of Civil Rights)
- 14-4 Importing a pet bird (USDA rules in brochure format)
- 14-5 *Rabies imported through "Operation Baghdad Pup"* (WA DOH Zoonotic Disease Newsletter)
- 14-6 Resource list for Animal Health Regulations, Importing/Exporting, Certificates & Testing

### Information & resources

#### Washington State

14-1 WAC 16-54-170: [apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=16-54-170](https://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=16-54-170)

#### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

14-2 Global migration and Quarantine: [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/animal/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/animal/index.htm)

#### U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

14-2 Animal import and export topics: [www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/index.shtml)

#### Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)

State Veterinarian's Office, Phone: (360) 902-1878, FAX: (360) 902-2087

Order form for health certificates for large and small animals:

Paper certificates: [agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/docs/Form3028.pdf](http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/docs/Form3028.pdf)

On-line certificates: [www.globalvetlink.com/about/veterinarian/](http://www.globalvetlink.com/about/veterinarian/)

Supplies for brucellosis testing and identification:

[agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/MicroLab/AnimalHealthTesting.htm](http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/MicroLab/AnimalHealthTesting.htm)

Animal premise registration: Phone: (360) 902-1860, online registration:

[agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Animal\\_Premise/NAIS.htm](http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Animal_Premise/NAIS.htm)

#### King County Office of Civil Rights

Commonly asked questions about service animals:

14-3 [www.kingcounty.gov/dias/ocre/c-animals.pdf](http://www.kingcounty.gov/dias/ocre/c-animals.pdf)

#### U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Importation of birds:

14-4 [www.usda.gov/documents/FINAL\\_AI\\_import\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.usda.gov/documents/FINAL_AI_import_brochure.pdf)

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**WAC 16-54-170**  
**Dogs, cats, and ferrets — Importation and testing requirements.**

Agency filings affecting this section

**Import health requirements.**

(1) Dogs, cats, or ferrets entering Washington state require a certificate of veterinary inspection.

(2) The certificate of veterinary inspection for dogs, cats, or ferrets must identify each animal and certify that each animal at the time of entry is current on rabies vaccination according to the manufacturer's label, and does not originate from an area under quarantine for rabies.

**Exemptions to import health requirements.**

(3) Dogs, cats, or ferrets less than ninety days of age do not require a rabies vaccination.

(4) Dogs and cats that originate in Washington state and visit Canada for thirty days or less are exempt from a certificate of veterinary inspection.

(5) Dogs, cats, or ferrets that are family pets and have current rabies vaccination certificates and are traveling by private conveyance with their owners are exempt from a certificate of veterinary inspection.

**Import test requirements.**

(6) The director may require dogs six months of age or older to be tested negative for heartworm.

**Exemptions to import test requirements.**

(7) Dogs that are family pets, have been owned more than one month, are not going to be sold or have a change of ownership, and are traveling by private conveyance with their owner or handler are exempt from the heartworm test requirement.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 16.36 and 34.05 RCW. 07-14-056, § 16-54-170, filed 6/28/07, effective 7/29/07.]

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## CDC Global Migration and Quarantine

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/animal.htm>

### Importation of Pets, Other Animals, and Animal Products into the United States

CDC regulations (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/lawsand.htm>) govern the importation of dogs, cats, turtles, monkeys, other animals, and animal products capable of causing human disease. Requirements for the importation of the most common pets are described below. Pets taken out of the United States are subject upon return, to the same regulations as those entering for the first time.

The CDC does not require general certificates of health for pets for entry into the United States. However, health certificates may be required for entry into some states, or may be required by airlines for pets. You should check with officials in your state of destination and with your airline prior to your travel date.

Restrictions on the importation of nonhuman primates, certain other animals, and certain animal products capable of causing more serious human disease are described under Restricted Animals, Agents, Hosts, and Vectors, below.

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#### What's New

- Foreign Quarantine Regulations, Advance Notice of Proposed Revision of HHS/CDC Animal Importation Regulations 42 CFR Parts 71.51 at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/anprm/index.htm>  
Now closed to public comment
  - Avian Flu Travel Information on CDC's Travelers' Health site at <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/contentAvianFluInformation.aspx>
  - Notice of Internet Adoption Scams Involving Imported Pets at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/monkey-adoption-scam.html> (Updated October 30, 2006)
  - Embargo of Birds from Specified Countries at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/outbreaks/embargo.htm>  
(Updated March 2, 2007)
  - Frequently Asked Questions about Animal Importation at [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/faq\\_animal\\_importation.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/faq_animal_importation.htm)
  - Importation of Dogs at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/animal.htm#dogs#dogs> (Updated September 6, 2006)
  - Embargoed Animals and Monkeypox Virus at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/monkeypox/animals.htm>
  - Embargo of Civets at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/civetembargo.htm>
  - Compendium of U.S. State and Territory Animal Import Regulations at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/sregs/>
  - Discussions Regarding Exotic Animal Importation, Sale, and Distribution: Summary of Information Presented at Public Meeting on May 18, 2006 (Federal Register notice; updated August 8, 2006) at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/E6-12736.htm>
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## Dogs

(Note: this section updated September 6, 2006)

- A general certificate of health is not required by CDC for entry of pet dogs into the United States, although some airlines or states may require them. However, pet dogs are subject to inspection at ports of entry and may be denied entry into the United States if they have evidence of an infectious disease that can be transmitted to humans. If a dog appears to be ill, further examination by a licensed veterinarian at the owner's expense might be required at the port of entry.
- **Proof of Rabies Vaccination:** Dogs must have a certificate showing they have been vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days prior to entry into the United States. These requirements apply equally to service animals such as Seeing Eye dogs.
- **Importation of Unvaccinated Dogs:** Dogs not accompanied by proof of rabies vaccination, including those that are too young to be vaccinated (i.e. less than 3 months of age), may be admitted if the importer completes a confinement agreement (see below) and confines the animal until it is considered adequately vaccinated against rabies (the vaccine is not considered effective until 30 days after the date of vaccination). Spanish, French, and Russian translations of form CDC 75.37 are available, but must be completed in English.
  - Confinement agreement (form CDC 75.37) at [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/pdf/animal/dog\\_quarantine\\_notice\\_08-04-06-cdc7537.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/pdf/animal/dog_quarantine_notice_08-04-06-cdc7537.pdf)
  - Puppies that are too young to be vaccinated (i.e. less than 3 months of age) must be kept in confinement until they are old enough to be vaccinated, and then confined for at least 30 days after the date of vaccination.
  - Unvaccinated dogs must be vaccinated within 4 days of arrival at their final U.S. destination and within 10 days of entry into the United States, and must be kept in confinement for at least 30 days after the date of vaccination.
  - Dogs may not be sold or transferred to other owners during this period of confinement, and the person that signs the confinement agreement is responsible for ensuring the conditions of the agreement are met.
  - Importers must provide a contact address where the dog will be kept during the confinement period. If the importer will be housing the dog at several addresses or traveling with the animal, all points of contact must be provided.
- **Importation of Dogs from Rabies-free Countries:** Unvaccinated dogs may be imported without a requirement for proof of rabies vaccination if they have been located for a minimum of 6 months or more in countries that are free of rabies (<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/yellowBookCh4-Rabies.aspx>)
- Following importation, all dogs are subject to state and local vaccination or health certificate requirements. All pet dogs arriving in the state of Hawaii (<http://hawaii.gov/hdoa/ai/aqs/info>) and the territory of Guam (<http://ns.gov.gu/pets.html>), even from the U.S. mainland, are subject to locally imposed quarantine requirements. Additional information can be found in the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control (<http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/RabiesCompendium.pdf>).

## Cats

(Note: this section updated March 28, 2006)

- A general certificate of health is not required by CDC for entry of pet cats into the United States, although some airlines or states may require them. However, pet cats are subject to inspection at ports of entry and may be denied entry into the United States if they have evidence of an infectious disease that can be transmitted to humans. If a cat appears to be ill, further examination by a licensed veterinarian at the owner's expense might be required at the port of entry.

- Cats are not required to have proof of rabies vaccination for importation into the United States. However, some states require vaccination of cats for rabies, so it is a good idea to check with state and local health authorities at your final destination.
- All pet cats arriving in the (<http://hawaii.gov/hdoa/ai/aqs/info>) state of Hawaii and the territory of Guam (<http://ns.gov.gu/pets.html>) even from the U.S. mainland, are subject to locally imposed quarantine requirements.

## Turtles

Turtles with a carapace (shell) length of less than 4 inches may not be imported for any commercial purpose. An individual may import as many as six of these turtles for noncommercial purposes. Larger turtles are not subject to CDC regulations.

## Restricted Animals, Agents, Hosts, and Vectors

Monkeys and other nonhuman primates (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/nonhuman.htm>) may not be imported as pets under any circumstances. Importation for permitted purposes is strictly controlled through a registration process. CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine, Field Operations Branch administers these regulations.

Etiological agents, hosts, or vectors of human disease, including microorganisms, insects, biological materials, tissue, certain live animals (e.g., live bats), and animal products may require a CDC permit for importation or transfer within the United States. CDC's Office of Health and Safety (<http://www.cdc.gov/od/ohs/>) administers these regulations:

- Live Bats at [http://www.cdc.gov/od/eaipp/forms/Permit to Import or Transport Live Bats fillable1-17.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/od/eaipp/forms/Permit%20to%20Import%20or%20Transport%20Live%20Bats%20fillable1-17.pdf)
- Etiologic Agent and Vector Species at <http://www.cdc.gov/od/eaipp/>
- Guidance for Individual Wishing to Import Non-Human Primate Trophies Skins or Skulls at [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/pdf/IP\\_NHP\\_Guidance013004.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/pdf/IP_NHP_Guidance013004.pdf)

## Additional Information

For information about the health-related risks of owning and caring for animals (Healthy Pets, Healthy People site), see <http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets>.

Certain animals and animal products are regulated by other Federal agencies, and/or State and local authorities. The following sites address some of these requirements of other federal agencies:

- Bureau of Customs & Border Protection (formerly US Customs) at <http://www.customs.gov/xp/cgov/home.xml>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Care: Pet Travel Page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/404.shtml>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at <http://www.fws.gov/>
  - Tips for Travelers <http://www.fws.gov/le/Travelers/TipsforTravelers.htm>
- U.S. Customs publication on pets [http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/newsroom/publications/travel/pets\\_wild.ctt/pets.pdf](http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/newsroom/publications/travel/pets_wild.ctt/pets.pdf)

## Traveling Outside the United States With Your Pets

Before taking a pet to another country, contact that country's consulate or embassy (see <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/fco/>) for information about their requirements.

## United States Department of Agriculture Import - Pets and Animals

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### Importation of Pets and Other Animals Into the United States

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/animals/animal\\_import/animal\\_imports\\_pets.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_import/animal_imports_pets.shtml)

**PET BIRDS**, see [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/animals/live\\_animals.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/live_animals.shtml)

### CATS AND DOGS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has regulations on the importation of dogs and cats into the United States. In general, they require that dogs be vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days prior to entry, except for puppies younger than 3 months and dogs originated or located for 6 months in areas considered to be free of rabies. A dog with an unexpired health certificate meets these requirements. We strongly suggest you visit the CDC web site at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/animal.htm> or call them at 404-639-3441, for more information on their regulations. There is no vaccination regulation for cats.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has certain restrictions on the importation of dogs. Collies, shepherds, and other dogs that are imported from any part of the world except Canada, Mexico, and regions of Central America and the West Indies and that are to be used in the handling of livestock must be inspected and quarantined at the port of entry for a sufficient time to determine their freedom from tapeworm.

In order to expedite entry into the United States, we suggest that you do not use straw, hay, grass, or other natural bedding. Our Plant Protection and Quarantine Division does not allow the importation of these materials as they may harbor various plant pests.

We also suggest you contact your State, county, municipal authorities for local restrictions on importing dogs. Some airlines require health certificates for dogs traveling with them. You should contact the airlines prior to your travel date.

Cats and dogs being imported into Hawaii will be quarantined for 130 days. Please visit the website for the Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture at: [http://www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa/doa\\_importing.htm](http://www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa/doa_importing.htm)

All cats and dogs are subject to inspection at ports of entry for evidence of infectious diseases that can be transmitted to humans.

As a help to both domestic and international travelers, The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals web site at <http://www.aspca.org/site/PageServer> has a wealth of pertinent information.

### Special Circumstances:

Dogs imported from countries or regions where screwworm is known to exist may be imported if they meet the following requirements:

- The dog must be accompanied by a certificate signed by a full-time salaried veterinary official of the region of origin stating that the dog has been inspected for screwworm within 5 days prior to shipment to the United States.
- The certificate must state that the dog is either free from screwworm or was found to be infested with screwworm and was held in quarantine and treated until free from screwworm prior to leaving the region.

Owners of dogs imported from countries or regions affected with Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)

([http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/animals/animal\\_import/animal\\_imports\\_fmd.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_import/animal_imports_fmd.shtml))

are advised to take the following precautions to prevent the introduction of FMD from pets entering the United States:

- The feet, fur, and bedding of the pets should be free of any excessive dirt or mud.
- The pet's bedding should be free of any straw or hay, or other natural bedding.
- The pet should be bathed as soon as it reaches its final destination.
- The pet should be kept separate and apart from all livestock for at least 5 days after entry into the United States.

If you need more information contact the Import Animals Program at (301) 734-3277.

## **OTHER**

APHIS does not have animal health requirements for the importation of fish, reptiles, lions, tigers, bears, mink, rabbits, sugar gliders, foxes, monkeys, endangered species, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, mice, rats, chinchillas, squirrels, mongoose, chipmunks, ferrets, or other rodents provided they have not been inoculated with any pathogens for scientific purposes. If the latter is the case, they require an import permit (VS Form 17-129)

([http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/animals/animal\\_import/animal\\_imports\\_anproducts.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_import/animal_imports_anproducts.shtml)) and can only be released to an approved laboratory.

The CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/animal.htm>) has responsibilities pertaining to the importation of primates.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Law Enforcement Division, Fish and Wildlife Services (<http://www.fws.gov/>), has responsibility pertaining to the importation of reptiles, fish, and endangered species.

Last Modified: February 8, 2007

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## Office of Civil Rights

Yesler Building, 400 Yesler Way, Room 260  
Seattle, Washington 98104-2683 MS: YES-ES-0260  
206-296-7592 Voice 206-296-7596 TTY 206-296-4329 Fax  
civil-rights.OCR@metrokc.gov www.metrokc.gov/dias/ocre/courts.htm

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# COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SERVICE ANIMALS

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### **1. What are the laws that apply to state and local governments in the state of Washington?**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Washington State Law Against Discrimination (RCW 49.60) prohibit state and local governmental agencies from discriminating against individuals with disabilities. In addition, public entities must provide reasonable modifications to existing policies, practices and procedures to ensure equal access to programs and services. Allowing people with disabilities to be accompanied by their service animals onto premises where animals are usually prohibited is a reasonable modification of policy and practice.

### **2. What is a disability?**

The ADA defines disability as any physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities and can include such activities as walking, talking, breathing, caring for oneself, etc. State of Washington law defines disability more broadly as the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, which is a condition that is "medically cognizable or diagnosable."

### **3. What is a service animal?**

The ADA defines a service animal as "any animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability." Under the law, a service animal is not considered a pet. The most common service animals are dogs, but may sometimes include other species (for example, a cat or a bird).

The Washington State Law Against Discrimination (RCW 49.60) defines service animal as "an animal that is trained for the purpose of assisting or accommodating a disabled person's sensory, mental, or physical disability." Some service animals-in-training are included under the definition of service animal. According to the Washington State Human Rights Commission, if the service animal-in-training can provide assistance to the individual with a disability, even though other training remains in progress, the animal is considered to be a service animal and is covered by state law. Also, a

companion or therapy animal may be considered a service animal, dependent upon whether the individual qualifies as a person with a disability under state law (see 2).

#### **4. What does a service animal do?**

Guide dogs are one type of service animal, used by some individuals who are blind. Service animals can perform myriad services for someone with a disability, including alerting deaf individuals to sounds (telephone, doorbell, fire alarms), alerting an individual with seizure disorder to an oncoming seizure, carrying and picking up things for someone who uses a wheelchair, and assisting with balance and opening doors.

A companion or therapy animal is typically for individuals with mental disabilities, including depression, post traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorder, or autism. Without the companion animal, the individual may not be able to go to work, interact successfully with other people, or conduct other daily activities.

#### **5. How can I tell if an animal is really a service animal and not just a pet?**

There are no legal requirements for service animals to be specially identified. Some, but not all, service animals wear special collars and harnesses. Some, but not all, are licensed or "certified" and/or have identification papers. If you are not certain that an animal is a service animal, you may ask the person who has the animal if it is a service animal required because of a disability. A public entity cannot require any proof of a person's disability, or identification or certification of the service animal's status.

#### **6. Can we restrict the areas into which the service animal can go?**

Generally, no. The service animal must be permitted to accompany the individual with a disability to all areas of the facility where members of the public are normally allowed to go, unless its presence or behavior creates a fundamental alteration or direct threat to safety (see 11 and 12). An individual with a service animal may not be segregated from others.

#### **7. What about any "no pets" policies?**

Legally, a service animal is not a pet. The ADA and Washington state law require you to modify your "no pets" policy to allow the use of a service animal by an individual with a disability. A "no pets" policy may be continued, but you must make an exception to your general rule for service animals.

#### **8. I thought that because of health regulations I only have to admit guide dogs. If I refuse other animals, am I violating the ADA or other laws?**

Yes, if you refuse to admit any other type of service animal on the basis of local health department regulations or other state or local laws. The ADA and the Washington State Law Against Discrimination provide greater protection for individuals with disabilities, and so they take priority over other local or state laws or regulations. There is no evidence that healthy, vaccinated, well-trained service animals are any greater threat to public health and safety than members of the general public.

**9. Can I charge a maintenance or cleaning fee, or safety deposit for people who bring service animals into our office or clinic?**

No. As for any other program modifications provided to people with disabilities, you may not charge an additional fee related to the use of service animals. An agency may charge its customers with disabilities if a service animal causes damage so long as it is the regular practice of the entity to charge non-disabled customers for the same types of damages.

**10. Am I responsible for the service animal while the person with a disability is in our office or clinic?**

No. The care or supervision of a service animal is solely the responsibility of his or her owner. You are not required to provide care or food for the animal.

**11. What if a service animal barks or growls at other people, or otherwise threatens people or other animals?**

You may exclude a service animal from your facility when that animal's behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others. However, you may not make assumptions (speculate) about how a particular animal is likely to behave based on your past experience with other animals. Each situation must be considered individually.

Although an agency may exclude any service animal that is a direct threat to safety, it should give the service animal's owner the option of continuing to access its services or enjoy its programs and activities without having the service animal on the premises.

**12. Can I exclude a service animal that doesn't really seem dangerous but is disruptive?**

There may be circumstances when an agency is not required to accommodate a service animal, when doing so would result in a fundamental alteration to the nature of the service or activity, such as when the animal disrupts business activity. For example, an animal can be excluded when it makes repeated loud noises or initiates unsolicited contact with people other than its owner, such as jumping on people. Any exclusion must be for reasons that are demonstrable, not speculative.

**13. Must I let in a service animal-in-training, or a person who does not have a disability who says the animal is trained as a service animal?**

No. The ADA and Washington state non-discrimination laws do not address service animals that are not yet trained. While you may choose to allow these animals entry, you do not have a legal obligation to do so. Additionally, these laws protect the rights of individuals who have disabilities, and do not pertain to individuals who do not have disabilities. (See 3 for more detail.) However, King County government's policy allows individuals and their service animals-in-training equal access to facilities, "subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to individuals with disabilities and their service animals."

**14. What about leash laws?**

Each situation must be considered on a case-by-case basis. You may enforce local leash laws. However, per U.S. Department of Justice, leash law enforcement may need to be modified for a service animal to be off-leash briefly to perform a particular task. Also, where physical disabilities may make it difficult or impossible for an individual to hold a leash, exception should be made to leash law requirements. This does not change the requirement that the animal be under the direct control of the individual with a disability. If the animal is not under the individual's control and is behaving in a threatening or destructive manner, you may choose to ask the person with a disability to remove their animal until it is under appropriate control.

**Information for this document was obtained from:**

U.S. Dept. of Justice Civil Rights Division, Office of the ADA,  
Commonly Asked Questions About Service Animals (1996)  
Washington State Human Rights Commission  
King County Office of Civil Rights  
Delta Society National Service Dog Center

## **Service Dog Etiquette**

You're not dealing with just a dog.

**Please speak first to the person.** It's correct human and canine manners!

**Petting the service dog** – do not touch either the service dog or its person without first asking permission. Touching the service dog might distract it from its work. Touching the person might be interpreted as assault.

**Feeding the service dog** – resist the temptation to offer treats to the service dog.

**Barking, meowing, whistling, and making other rude noises at the service dog** – Don't. You'll look silly.

**Conversing with the person about the service dog, disabilities, other dogs you have known** – Questions of a personal nature should be avoided. If the person volunteers information, you may decide if you wish to continue the conversation. Don't feel offended if the person declines to talk about him/herself or the service dog – not everyone wants to be a walking “show and tell” exhibit.

### **What If . . . ?**

#### **. . . you don't like or are afraid of dogs?**

Place yourself away from the service dog. If you are a business person, discreetly arrange for someone else to wait on the person. You may ask the person to have the service dog lie down if it does not interfere with its work.

#### **. . . the service dog barks, growls, or otherwise forgets its manners?**

Find out what happened before taking action. Was the service dog stepped on, poked, asleep and dreaming, performing its job (some alert their owners to oncoming seizures by barking once or twice)? If the service dog's behavior is disruptive, you may ask the person to remove it from the premises.

#### **. . . other people complain about the dog being present?**

Explain that the service dog is medically necessary and that federal law protects the right of the person to be accompanied by the service dog in public places.

“Service Dog Etiquette,” excerpted from “Facts You Should Know About Service Dogs”  
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United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Program Aid No. 1832

## Importing a Pet Bird

### Special Rules for Bringing Pet Birds of Non-U.S. Origin Into the United States

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

*Cover photo:* If you buy a pet bird while traveling abroad, you must adhere to certain importation requirements. These rules were put in place to prevent the introduction of highly contagious communicable diseases into the United States. (APHIS file photo.)

Issued September 2005

This publication supersedes Program Aid No. 1534, "Importing a Pet Bird: Special Rules for Bringing Pet Birds Into the United States," which was originally published in August 1984 and revised in November 1994.





## Why Are Special Rules for Pet Birds Necessary?

Serious diseases of birds and poultry can be carried by pet birds entering this country. For example, parrots from South America are believed to have caused an outbreak of exotic Newcastle disease (END) in southern California in the early 1970s. Eradicating that disease outbreak cost \$56 million over a 3-year period. During that outbreak, more than 12 million birds were destroyed, the vast majority of which were commercial poultry.

In October 2002, the United States experienced the largest END outbreak in 30 years. It took 10 months to eradicate the disease at a cost of \$180 million. Four million birds were depopulated; most of them came from commercial operations, but many came from backyard flocks and bird enthusiasts.

Because the first END outbreak demonstrated that imported pet birds can carry communicable diseases of poultry, USDA developed importation rules for quarantining pet birds to help prevent the introduction of such highly contagious diseases into the United States.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has special rules for bringing pet birds into the United States from foreign countries.

A pet bird is any bird except poultry that is kept for its owner's pleasure and is not for resale. (Commercial shipments of birds are imported under different rules than personally owned pet birds.) Poultry, even if kept as a pet, is brought into the country and quarantined under separate requirements than other species of birds.

In addition to chickens and turkeys, USDA considers pheasants, partridge, ducks, geese, swans, quail, pigeons, and peafowl to be poultry under its importation rules.

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## Import Procedures

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A VS veterinarian monitors the health of a traveler's pet bird during the quarantine period. (APHIS file photo.)

To import your pet bird from a foreign country into the United States, you must supply certain paperwork and quarantine your bird at a Federal facility. You must provide USDA-APHIS authorities with:

- a USDA Import permit;
- a current health certificate issued by a full-time, salaried veterinarian of the agency responsible for animal health of the national government in the exporting country of origin; and
- certification from the U.S. Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) (if necessary).

In addition, you must quarantine your pet bird for 30 days at a USDA Animal Import Center.

**Note:** For information on temporary bans on the importation of pet birds into the United States, please visit APHIS' Web site at <<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/pet-bird-non-us.html>>.

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## How To Obtain a USDA Import Permit and Reserve Space at a Quarantine Center

All non-U.S.-origin pet birds imported into the United States (except from Canada) are required to be quarantined for 30 days in one of three special USDA animal import facilities at the owner's expense. You must make a reservation at the chosen facility in advance by contacting the USDA port veterinarian there. The three ports-of-entry accepting pet birds are listed in the next section. A cost estimate for the quarantine will be provided when you make your reservation. Pet birds arriving at these facilities without advance reservations will generally be refused and may also be confiscated. Note that regardless of where you enter the United States, your pet bird must be presented for entry at New York City, Miami, or Los Angeles.



Pet birds are kept in filtered isolation cages during the 30-day quarantine period to prevent the possible spread of disease within the import facility. (APHIS photo by animal health technician Carlos Pages.)

Once the reservation is made and payment is received in full for all quarantine services, the animal import quarantine facility will issue a USDA import permit. This permit must accompany the pet bird while in transit. Also, please note that young birds that need to be hand-fed cannot be accepted for quarantine because removing them daily from the special isolation cages used at USDA quarantine facilities could interfere with the biological security of the facility.

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### **USDA Quarantine Centers and Ports-of-Entry**

All non-U.S.-origin pet birds must enter the country and undergo quarantine at one of the following import quarantine facilities. These are the only ports-of-entry available for importing non-U.S.-origin pet birds.

#### **New York, NY**

USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services  
John F. Kennedy International Airport  
230-59 Rockaway Blvd., Suite 101  
Jamaica, NY 11413  
Telephone (718) 553-1727  
Telefax (718) 553-7543

#### **Miami, FL**

USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services  
6300 NW. 36<sup>th</sup> Street (Perimeter Road)  
Miami, FL 33122  
Telephone (305) 526-2926  
Telefax (305) 526-2929

#### **Los Angeles, CA**

USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services  
Los Angeles International Airport  
11850 S. La Cienega Blvd.  
Hawthorne, CA 90250  
Telephone (310) 725-1970  
Telefax (310) 725-9119

### **Pay USDA the Total Quarantine Fee at the Time You Make Reservations**

This fee covers the costs of quarantining, testing, and examining your pet bird. You must include a check or money order made payable to USDA for the quarantine fee when you return the completed reservation forms. For current costs, please visit [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/mrpbs/ufees/vs\\_import\\_export\\_fees.html#1302](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/mrpbs/ufees/vs_import_export_fees.html#1302).

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### **Obtain a Health Certificate From the Exporting Country**

A veterinary health certificate is required for all pet birds imported into the United States. The certificate must be issued and signed by a full-time, salaried veterinarian of the agency responsible for animal health of the national government in the exporting country of origin. The certificate should state that the bird has been examined, shows no signs of communicable diseases of poultry, and is being exported in accordance with the laws of that country. The veterinary official must sign the certificate within 30 days of the time that the bird is shipped to the United States. If the health certificate is not in English, a complete written English translation must be provided.

**Note:** In addition to health certificates, all species of birds to be allowed into the United States at any of the three ports noted must arrive with the appropriate documents from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the exporting country. (See the section on FWS regulations later in this leaflet.)

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### **Transport Your Pet Bird and All Necessary Documentation to the Import Facility Where You Have Reserved Quarantine Space**

If you are personally reentering the United States at a port other than New York City, Miami, or Los Angeles, your pet bird must still be shipped from abroad directly to one of those three cities for entry processing. You will need to hire a private company or U.S. customs broker to move your pet bird from its port-of-entry to the USDA import facility nearby.

Upon arriving at the facility, your pet bird will be transferred to a special isolation cage. Your transport cage may need to be removed from the premises because USDA animal import facilities may not have the space to store privately owned cages.

If you wish to reenter the United States at New York City, Miami, or Los Angeles, you can present your pet bird at the USDA quarantine facility without using a broker/transporter.

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### **The Quarantine Period**

Your pet bird will remain in quarantine for at least 30 days. USDA–APHIS veterinarians and other employees will care for your pet bird during this time. Pet birds are kept in air-filtered isolation cages to prevent the possible spread of disease within the import facility. Food and water are always readily available.

APHIS veterinarians will test your pet bird during the quarantine period to ensure that it is free of communicable diseases of poultry. Unfortunately, if your pet bird is found to be infected with such a disease (e.g., exotic Newcastle disease or avian influenza virus), it will not be allowed to enter the United States. If this should happen, you can choose to have your bird humanely euthanized or pay for its return to the country of origin if that country is willing to accept it.

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## Smuggled Birds Can Carry Exotic Diseases

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Most outbreaks of END in caged and aviary birds appear to have been caused by birds entering the United States illegally. Birds illegally smuggled into the United States are not quarantined and tested by APHIS and therefore may carry the END virus—even if they do not look sick.



Birds illegally smuggled into the United States are not quarantined and tested by USDA and therefore may carry exotic Newcastle disease or avian influenza. (APHIS file photo.)

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As a bird owner, you should know the signs of END. An infected bird may exhibit the following symptoms:

- Respiratory: sneezing, gasping for air, nasal discharge, coughing;
- Digestive: greenish, watery diarrhea;
- Nervous: depression, muscular tremors, drooping wings, twisting of the head and neck, circling, complete paralysis;
- Egg production: partial to complete drop in production and thin-shelled eggs; and/or
- Mortality: sudden death of individuals and increased death loss in a flock.

Because this disease is highly contagious, owners of pet birds should:

- Request certification from suppliers that birds are legally imported or of U.S. stock, are healthy prior to shipment, and will be transported in new or thoroughly disinfected containers.
- Maintain records of all sales and shipments.
- Isolate all newly purchased birds for at least 30 days.
- Implement stringent biosecurity practices to prevent the introduction of END to your pet.

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## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Rules

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### FWS Permit Information

In the United States, FWS regulates the importation of birds protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992 (WBCA). These regulations are part of an international conservation effort to protect exotic wild birds subject to trade. Most exotic pet birds, including parrots, parakeets, macaws, lorries, and cockatoos, are covered by CITES and/or the WBCA. However, the budgerigar, cockatiel, and rose-ringed parakeet are exempt.

According to the WBCA, in order to import a pet bird of non-U.S. origin into the United States, you must have continuously resided

outside the United States for at least 1 year. In addition, the WBCA limits the number of pet birds that can be imported to two birds per person per year. Also, all applicable requirements must have been met prior to the birds' arrival into the United States. All required WBCA and CITES permits must accompany the bird while in transit.

Please visit the FWS Web site at <http://permits.fws.gov> to obtain more information on the permit application. If you have questions, you can contact the FWS toll-free at (800) 358-2104. Overseas calls should be placed to (703) 358-2104. Overseas calls are not toll-free, and no collect calls will be accepted.



Most exotic pet birds, including parrots, parakeets, macaws, lorries, and cockatoos, are protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). However, cockatiels like these, budgerigars, and rose-ringed parakeets are exempt. (APHIS file photo.)

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## Special Exemptions From USDA Quarantine Requirements

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Bird owners from the United States who take their pet birds with them while traveling abroad are generally exempted from the USDA quarantine and foreign certification requirements. This exception applies only to U.S.-origin pet birds and is permitted as long as the U.S. owner makes special arrangements in advance.

If you wish to take your pet bird abroad, you must obtain all necessary USDA and FWS documents before departing the United States. Such preparation is especially critical for birds covered by CITES. You must get a health certificate signed by a USDA-accredited veterinarian, and you and your veterinarian should make certain that your pet bird is identified with a tattoo, numbered legband, or microchip and that this identification is recorded on the certificate.

While abroad, you must keep your pet bird separate from other birds. You must also make arrangements to have your pet bird inspected upon its return by a USDA-APHIS veterinarian. This inspection will be subject to a user fee. You may bring your pet bird through any of the three ports-of-entry approved for birds **or** to any international airport that can be serviced by a USDA veterinary official. For more information, contact USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services at 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737. The telephone number is (301) 734-8364.

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## Pet Birds Coming to the United States From Canada

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Pet birds coming to the United States from Canada are also exempt from quarantine requirements because that country's animal and bird health status and importation requirements are similar to those of the United States.

If you plan to bring a pet bird into the United States from Canada by car, you must arrange for a veterinary inspection at a USDA-designated land border station. There are 19 such stations located along the U.S.-Canadian border. No import permit or health certificate is required. You must arrange for your bird's veterinary inspection 3-5 days before you enter into the United States. There is an inspection fee.

If you are transporting your pet bird to the United States from Canada by air or by ship, you will need an import permit. There is a fee for this permit. The application (VS Form 17-129) may be downloaded from the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie>. You must notify the port veterinarian at least 72 hours prior to your arrival. A health certificate from a certified veterinarian of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is needed.

Contact Veterinary Services' National Center for Import/Export at 4700 River Road, Unit 39, Riverdale, MD 20737, for current information about ports-of-entry. You can also call (301) 734-8364 or fax your questions to (301) 734-6402.

**Note:** Birds from Canada or pet birds of U.S. origin that have traveled abroad with their owners are not exempt from FWS permit requirements under the Endangered Species Act and the WBCA.



"Operation Baghdad Pup" is a project that reunites soldiers and the animals they cared for while stationed in Iraq or Afghanistan.

One of the dogs from a June 5 shipment became ill soon after arriving in the U.S. and tested positive for rabies.

The soldier who cared for the dog that developed rabies reported having the dog for approximately seven months in Iraq and knew of no bites from or exposures to suspect rabid animals.

## Rabies imported through "Operation Baghdad Pup"

By Ron Wohrle, Environmental Health Veterinarian, DOH Zoonotic Disease Program

Three dogs, imported from Iraq to Washington State, are currently being quarantined after potentially being exposed to a rabid dog during transport.

On June 5, 24 dogs and 2 cats were imported from Iraq to Newark Liberty Airport, New Jersey, via a commercial airline. The animals were brought to the U.S. through "Operation Baghdad Pup," a project coordinated by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals International. Their initiative is transporting animals befriended by our troops in Iraq or Afghanistan back to the U.S. to be reunited with the soldiers or their families at home.

When the dogs and cats first arrived, they were housed in an empty warehouse on airport grounds for approximately five days before being flown to their new homes throughout the country. While the animals were at the airport, they were bathed, groomed, examined by veterinarians, and provided preventive care on June 5 and 6.

One of the imported cats developed neurologic signs and was euthanized within five days of arrival. The cat was ill at the time of transport and had a bite wound of unknown origin on its tail. This cat was tested and documented as negative for rabies by the New Jersey Public Health and Environmental Laboratories (PHEL).

On June 8, the third day the animals were at the warehouse airport, volunteers noticed that one of the dogs was wobbly, showed a change in personality, and had diarrhea. The 11-month-old male Spaniel/Labrador mix was admitted to a local New Jersey veterinary hospital the following day. On admission to the hospital, the dog had a 103.5°F temperature, a tense abdomen, vocalized strangely, acted confused, and was "snappy." Laboratory testing was negative for parvovirus and distemper virus, and ultrasound, blood counts, and serum chemistries were not remarkable.

The dog gradually became weaker and totally recumbent, and continued to vocalize and show agitation, despite being heavily sedated. He was euthanized on June 11 and tissue specimens were sent to New Jersey PHEL and found positive for rabies by a direct fluorescent antibody assay on June 18. A sample was confirmed positive by CDC on June 20.

An investigation by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and CDC is ongoing to identify persons and animals that may have been exposed to this dog during its infectious period, from May 29 to June 11. No bite exposures to humans or the other animals in the shipment have been identified, but several individuals, including volunteers, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and the soldier who had cared for the dog in Iraq, have been identified as potentially exposed to the saliva of the animal and have begun rabies postexposure prophylaxis.

The animals were kept primarily in separate crates, but it cannot be confirmed with certainty that there was no contact between dogs when they were walked or exercised.

On June 23, the New Jersey State Public Health Veterinarian and CDC notified the Zoonotic Disease Program that three dogs included in this shipment were now in Washington State. Through extensive efforts, all three dogs were located in King, Thurston, and Pierce County.

The vaccination and exposure histories for these dogs were unclear. Thus, as a precaution, we recommended that all animals in this shipment be treated as if they had not been adequately vaccinated and were exposed to rabies. And in accordance with state regulations, the dogs should be vaccinated against rabies immediately and quarantined for six months.

The three dogs from this shipment have been re-vaccinated and quarantined/isolated under specific guidelines set forth by each local health jurisdiction. All three dogs remain healthy and will be confined and observed closely for six months.

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# Resources for Animal Health Regulations, Importing/Exporting, Certificates and Testing

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>State Vet</b> <b>State Veterinarian's Office</b> WSDA PO Box 42577 Olympia, WA 98504-2577 (360) 902-1878 fax: (360) 902-2087 <a href="http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/">agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>State Animal Health Laboratory</b> WSDA - 3939 Cleveland Avenue SE Olympia, WA 98501 Serology: (360) 586-3642 Bacteriology: (360) 586-3643 Billing/administrative: (360) 753-5061 fax: (360) 753-5047  <a href="http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/AnimalHealthTesting">agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/AnimalHealthTesting</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Federal Vet</b> <b>USDA-APHIS, Veterinary Services</b> 2604 12<sup>th</sup> Court SW Suite B Olympia, WA 98502 (360) 753-9430 fax: (360) 753-9585 <a href="http://www.aphis.usda.gov/">www.aphis.usda.gov/</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Services</b></p> <p>WA State Animal Health Certificates and issuance _____</p> <p>Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Emergency Response and Reporting _____</p> <p>State Veterinarian, Area State Veterinarians, State Epidemiologist, Diagnostic Assistance _____</p> <p>Animal Health Handbook for Veterinarians <a href="http://134.121.132.75/index.htm">http://134.121.132.75/index.htm</a> _____</p> <p>Johne's vaccine approval &amp; information _____</p> <p>Laws related to animal health, sale and movement <i>inside</i> Washington State _____</p> <p>Laws related to exotic or wild animal importation in conjunction with <b>Department of Fish and Wildlife</b> <a href="http://www.wa.gov/wdfw/wlm/exotic.htm">www.wa.gov/wdfw/wlm/exotic.htm</a> _____</p> <p><b>State-by-State Regulations</b> (requirements for animal importation inside the U.S.) <a href="http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/sregs/">www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/sregs/</a> (360) 902-1878</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Supplies</b></p> <p>Order form available on-line at: <a href="http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/docs/Form3028.pdf">agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/docs/Form3028.pdf</a></p> <p>Calfhood Vaccinate Ear Tags (Orange) ID Ear Tags (Silver) Brucellosis Vaccination Record VS 4-26 Brucellosis Test Record VS 4-33 Brucellosis Continuation VS 4-33A Market Cattle Test Record Form VS 4-54 Tuberculosis Test Record VS 6-22 Tuberculosis Continuation VS 6-22B EIA Test Record VS 10-11 Certificate of Veterinary Inspection Large Animal Interstate HC AGR 3007 Official Small Animal HC AGR 3008 Horse Passport AGR 3026</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Livestock Inspection</b></p> <p>Cattle or horses moving to another state or cattle change of ownership within Washington (360) 902-1855  <a href="http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Livestock/InspectionTypes">agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Livestock/InspectionTypes</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Services</b></p> <p><b>Official Serology testing:</b> Anaplasmosis CF, ELISA Blue Tongue AGID, ELISA, CF Bovine Leukosis AGID, ELISA Brucella:   abortus CF, STT, SPT, BAPA, CARD, CARD Rose-Bengal 3%, Rivanol   canis slide, Tube   melitensis 3% CARD   ovis CF CAE AGID EHD AGID EIA (Coggins) ELISA, AGID Johne's ELISA, CF Leptospirosis pomona, hardjo, grippo, ictero, canicola OPP AGID West Nile Virus (equine only) IgM ELISA</p> <p><b>Official Animal Bacteriology testing:</b> Aerobic Culture Antibiotic sensitivity Johne's (M. paratuberculosis) culture Milk culture Trichomoniasis Campylobacteriosis</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Supplies</b></p> <p>Order form available on-line at: <a href="http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/docs/3220-AHLabSupplyOrder.pdf">agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/docs/3220-AHLabSupplyOrder.pdf</a> Brucellosis Blood Tubes Brucellosis CARD Test Antigen Brucellosis CARD Test Kit Diamonds Transport Media (Trich media) Shipping Boxes Tuberculin VRL Media for Campylobacter (Campy media) Vials for stool samples (Johne's)</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Links to other regional diagnostic laboratories</b></p> <p>WSU-WADDL: <a href="http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts_waddl/index.htm">www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts_waddl/index.htm</a> NVSL: <a href="http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nvsl/">www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nvsl/</a> California: <a href="http://cahfs.ucdavis.edu/">cahfs.ucdavis.edu/</a> Oregon: <a href="http://www.oda.state.or.us/">www.oda.state.or.us/</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Services</b></p> <p>Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Emergency Response and Reporting _____</p> <p>Federal Veterinarian, Federal Epidemiologist, Diagnostic Assistance _____</p> <p>Original copies of Brucellosis &amp; Tuberculosis Test Records (Blood charts) _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>International Requirements for Importing animals into the USA</b> <a href="http://www.aphis.usda.gov/NCIE/">www.aphis.usda.gov/NCIE/</a> _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>International Regulations Exporting animals to other Countries</b> <a href="http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/animals">www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/animals</a> _____</p> <p>Sheep and Goat Scrapie Ear Tags ID Program _____</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Supplies</b></p> <p>Call (360) 753-9430 to order: Health Certificates for International Travel Equine Form VS 17-145 Miscellaneous Sp Form VS 17-140 Poultry Form VS 17-6 Small Animal Form 7001 Export Certificates for By-Products</p> <hr/> <p>This <b>List of Resources</b> prepared by the Washington State Department of Agriculture for use by veterinarians.  <i>Updated 2/24/03</i></p>