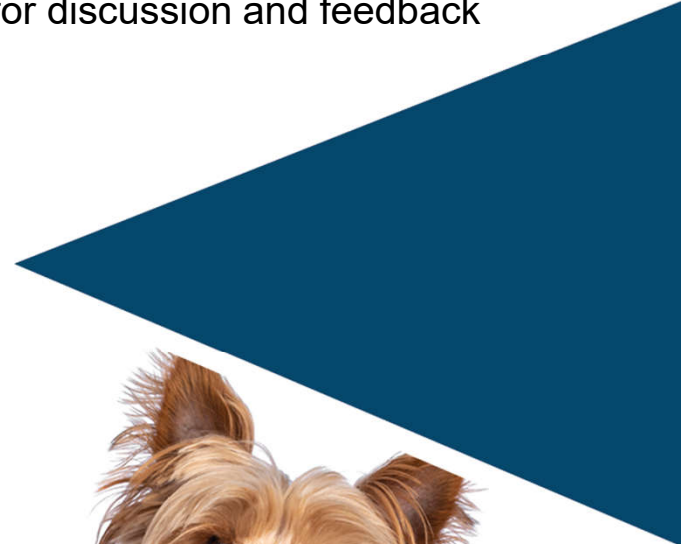


# New Requirements for Exporting Dogs to the United States

Overview of the United States (US) Centres for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) new requirements, impacts on Canadians, and opportunity for discussion and feedback



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# Agenda

## Background

### Overview of Changes to CDC Import Requirements

- Current vs new

## Considerations

### Canadian Impacts

- Dog owners
- Industry
- Canadian licensed veterinarians
- CFIA

## CFIA's Approach

## Summary of Concerns Shared with CDC

## Discussion

# Background

- July 2023 – the US CDC published proposed updates to their Dog and Cat Importation Regulation with a public comment period until September 2023
- September 2023 - The CFIA provided comments to the US CDC, including:
  - Requesting more information and details, including any possible Canadian licensed veterinarian and/or CFIA Official Veterinarian involvement, in order to fully assess the impacts
  - Highlighting the importance of allowing some movement of dogs less than 6 months of age
  - Requesting confirmation of the level of involvement required by Canadian licensed veterinarians, and confirmation that CFIA Official Veterinarian involvement would continue to not be required
  - Requesting the opportunity for future discussion and collaboration on evolving import measures
  - **Highlighting the need to maintain a low regulatory burden on travellers between Canada and the United States**
- May 8, 2024, the US CDC notified the CFIA that they had published the updated regulation
  - Considerable changes had been made to requirements such as the options of what would be considered acceptable written proof that the dog has only been in dog rabies-free or low-risk countries, exemptions for dogs less than 6 months of age, required involvement of foreign Official Veterinarians, etc.
  - Changes were made without re-engagement or advance notice to trading partners and the public.

# Overview of Changes to CDC Import Requirements

## Current Requirements

- No CDC or USDA APHIS requirements for pet dogs
  - US States may have requirements (e.g., rabies vaccination), however CFIA Official Veterinarian endorsement is not required
- USDA APHIS has requirements for commercial dogs for resale or adoption, again without CFIA Official Veterinarian involvement

## Initially Published Requirements as of August 1, 2024

- Healthy upon arrival
- At least 6 months of age
- Microchipped (ISO-compliant)
- CDC Dog Import Form receipt
  - submitted 2-10 days in advance\*
  - indicate US port of entry
  - include photo of the dog
- Certification that the dog
  - has only been in a dog rabies-free or low-risk country during the 6 months prior to travel to the US (including proof through attached veterinary records)
  - is at least 6 months of age
  - is microchipped with an ISO-compliant microchip
  - **issued by a Canadian licensed veterinarian and endorsed by CFIA Official Veterinarian**
  - **valid for up to 30 days and only for a single entry\***
- Additional requirements apply if the dog has been to a high risk rabies country in the last 6 months

# Considerations

- New requirements are a significant change for all parties.
- Very limited time provided for foreign competent authorities, foreign veterinary communities, dog owners and the animal transportation industry to appropriately prepare for, meet and implement the new requirements.
- Limited to no data regarding the number of pet dogs travelling between Canada and the US. However, based on CFIA Public Opinion Research, ~90% of Canadians who travel with their pet travel to the US.
  - *Significant volume of dogs that travel on a regular and frequent basis*

# Canadian Impacts

## • Dog Owners

- Significant increase in the time and preparation required to take a dog to the US
- Significant increase in the cost associated with taking a dog to the US
  - Estimated increased cost of \$125-\$300 or more for certification per dog per entry
- Certain dogs will not be eligible to travel to the US:
  - Dogs less than 6 months of age
  - Dogs which have not been microchipped for at least 6 months
- Impacts will be amplified for frequent travelers
  - Border communities (restricts access to cross border veterinary care), long-haul truck drivers, people who work and/or own properties on both sides of the border, etc.

***Significantly increased financial and regulatory burden***  
***Restricted ability to travel***

# Canadian Impacts

- Industry

- Negative impact on dog show/sport industry
- Negative impact on breeders
- Negative impact on tourism
- Stricter requirements for airlines transporting dogs and cats to the US

- Canadian Veterinary Community

- Significant increase in time and resources to issue certificates every time a dog travels to the US
  - already experiencing capacity issues to maintain domestic veterinary care

- CFIA

- Significantly increased resource burden on CFIA Official Veterinarians to endorse certificates

# CFIA's Approach

- Engagement with US Regulators
  - CFIA has met with USDA and US CDC to discuss concerns and explore possible solutions
  - Commitment to continue to meet as needed
- Engagement with Industry Stakeholders
  - Seeking feedback and collaboration to identify areas of concern and explore potential solutions
- Internal CFIA Collaboration
  - Significant work being done within multiple branches to identify, evaluate and implement potential solutions, develop a long term communications plan, etc.
- Engagement/Collaboration with other government departments as necessary

***Goal = a solution that industry and CFIA are able to deliver which limits regulatory burden on Canadians travelling to the United States***



# Summary of Concerns Shared with CDC

- Very limited time to implement new processes and communicate these to the affected parties
- Large volume of dogs travelling between Canada and the US
- Microchip requirement
  - Dogs which already have a non-ISO compliant microchip or have not been microchipped yet
- 6 month age minimum
  - Significantly restricts ability to move some dogs (i.e., dog shows/competition, veterinary care, etc.)
- Certification - Single entry, only valid for up to 30 days\*
- Costs associated with certification – financial burden
- Time associated with certification – resource burden
  - Affecting dog owners, Canadian veterinary community and the CFIA
- Assistance/service dogs
  - Accessibility of CDC platform, no exemptions for assistance dog handlers who have also travelled to a high-risk country
- Frequent/urgent border crossings
  - Border communities, Indigenous communities spanning borders
  - Crossing for veterinary care (GP, emergency and/or speciality care)
  - Individuals who travel frequently with dogs (i.e., truck drivers, people who own property on both sides, etc.)
  - Emergencies

# Discussion

- Certification
    - How to implement in a way that is feasible and sustainable?
  - Requirements
    - Are there additional concerns with the import requirements?
  - Update on industry actions and engagement with US counterparts and/or Canadian membership
  - Other concerns, questions or information to share?
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