



Dogs to the United States of America (Guidance)

USPET9 (GD)

Effective from 1 August 2024

1 Document History

Version Date	Section Changed	Change(s) Description
1 August 2024	All sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New guidance document for <i>Dogs to the United States of America (OMAR)</i>, USPET9, dated 1 August 2024.• Additional guidance provided for dogs which do not require the issuance of an official assurance as specified in <i>Dogs to the United States of America (OMAR)</i>, USPET9, dated 1 August 2024.• Cats are not included in USPET9 OMAR or this guidance document, noting that an official assurance is not required for cats exported to the United States of America. <p>See the guidance document: https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/497-Cats-to-United-States-of-America-Guidance, for information relating to the export of cats from New Zealand to the United States of America.</p>

2 Purpose

- (1) This guidance document has been issued to:
- a) provide information for dogs being exported to the United States of America which do not require the an official assurance under: *Dogs to the United States of America (OMAR)*, USPET9, dated 1 August 2024.
 - b) provide information for dogs which do require an official assurance under *Dogs to the United States of America (OMAR)*, USPET9, dated 1 August 2024.
- (2) This guidance document has been split into specific sections relevant to the residency history and rabies vaccination status (including available documentation requirements) of the dog.
- a) **Section 3 is relevant to all dogs exported from New Zealand.**
 - b) Section 4 in addition to section 3 is relevant to dogs which have resided in New Zealand for at least 6 months.

- c) Section 5 in addition to sections 3 and 4 is relevant to dogs which have resided in New Zealand for less than 6 months and is further split into additional guidance depending on the rabies vaccination status of the dog being exported.

3 Specific guidance for all dogs exported from New Zealand

- (1) The importation of dogs into the United States of America is mainly regulated by Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the destination state.
- (2) All dogs require a *CDC Import Form (receipt)* prior to export from New Zealand to the United States of America.
- (3) All dogs must be at least 180 days of age prior to export from New Zealand to the United States of America.
- (4) All dogs must be microchipped with an ISO compatible microchip.
- (5) Under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, all dogs being exported from New Zealand require an Animal Welfare Export Certificate (AWEC), unless exempt. Exemptions are in place for pets departing New Zealand on ships, or traveling less than 6 hours. It is expected that all dogs being exported to the United States of America will require an AWEC.
- (6) Comprehensive information regarding the importation of dogs into the United States of America can be viewed at: <https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/index.html>

3.1.1 CDC Import Form (receipt)

- (1) A *CDC Import Form (receipt)* is required to have been issued by the CDC and be available for presentation to the MPI Official Veterinarian at the time of export certification and to the United States of America border official at the time of importation.
- (2) The link to the application for a *CDC Import Form* is below:
<https://cdc-786687.workflowcloud.com/forms/fb112553-dd9a-4c3e-a75f-12d6b7e2f2a4>
 - a) The CDC application form requires the owner to upload a clear photograph of the dog showing its face and body.
 - b) Dogs that will be less than 1 year of age at the time of arrival into the United States of America should have the photograph taken within 10 days before arrival into the United States of America.

3.1.2 Animal Welfare Export Certificate (AWEC)

- (1) The AWEC certificate is issued under separate New Zealand legislation and should not be presented to the United States of America's competent authority.
- (2) The link for the AWEC supporting declaration is below:
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/62859-Owner-Vet-supporting-declaration-form-for-MPI-pet-official-export-certification-and-AWECs-including-pets-to-Australia>
- (3) The owner and the registered veterinarian must complete and sign the AWEC supporting declaration form, which is then presented to the MPI Official Veterinarian at the AWEC examination appointment.
- (4) The MPI Official Veterinarian will be examining the animal and the crate along with the AWEC supporting declaration at the AWEC examination appointment.

3.1.3 Travel to the United States of America

- (1) The crate for airline travel must be rigid and constructed and sized in accordance with the current standard for the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
 - a) IATA information regarding the transportation of pets can be found in the following link: [IATA - Traveling with Pets](#).

- (2) Dogs are permitted to travel in cabin if:
 - a) The airline has provided express permission for the carriage of the identified dog in the cabin.
 - b) The dog is contained in a rigid crate which meets the criteria in 4.1.3(1)a), or the airline has given permission for travel in the cabin without a container.
 - c) The MPI Official Veterinarian will need to see evidence of the airline permission and will inspect the crate to ensure it is rigid and meets the criteria in 4.1.3(1)a).

3.1.4 Hawaii and Guam

- (1) The states of Hawaii and Guam require an official assurance for all dogs in addition to an AWEC.
- (2) Please see the relevant OMARs for dogs and cats to Hawaii and dogs and cats to Guam as found on the link below:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/take-or-send-from-nz/pets-leaving-nz/all-pets-leaving-nz-except-cats-and-dogs-to-australia/requirement-documents-pets-leaving-nz/>

4 Specific guidance for dogs which have resided in New Zealand for at least 6 months

- (1) New Zealand is not included in the list of DMRVV high-risk countries published by the CDC, and is therefore considered low-rabies risk for the purposes of the importation requirements.
- (2) Dogs that are exported from New Zealand are not required to be rabies vaccinated if they have spent at least 6 months prior to arrival in the United States of America in New Zealand.

Individual states in the United States of America require vaccination of dogs for rabies and have additional health certificate requirements. It is therefore important to check with state and local health authorities at your destination before you plan your dog's export to the United State of America.

- (3) Notwithstanding the United States of America (excluding Hawaii and Guam) not requiring an official assurance for dogs being imported from New Zealand which have resided in New Zealand for at least 6 months prior to export, most airlines require that the animal is accompanied by a veterinary certificate of health signed by a registered veterinarian stating that the animal is fit to travel.
 - a) Such fitness to travel certificates are to be written on veterinary practice note/letterhead paper.
 - b) Veterinarians signing these "fitness to travel" airline certificates are to ensure that their name and qualifications are typed or printed beneath their signatures.
 - c) An example of "fitness to travel" certificate is provided in section 6 of this guidance document and can be adapted to suit.

The issued Animal Welfare Export certificate (AWEC) should not to be used as a "fitness to travel" certificate, however the supporting declaration form for the purpose of an AWEC, could be used as a "fitness to travel" certificate if the airline accepts it.

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/62859-Owner-Vet-supporting-declaration-form-for-MPI-pet-official-export-certification-and-AWECs-including-pets-to-Australia>

5 Specific guidance for dogs which have resided in New Zealand for less than 6 months

- (1) Dogs which have resided in New Zealand for less than 6 months, are further classified with requirements and guidance for movement depending on the previous country(ies) the dog has resided in prior to export from New Zealand to the United States of America, and where the rabies vaccination has been administered, and the type of supporting documentation available.

5.1 Dogs which have resided in New Zealand for less than 6 months and which have resided only in other low-risk countries in the preceding 6 months prior to export.

- (1) These dogs are considered the same status as New Zealand resident dogs and do not require an official assurance.
- (2) These dogs follow the specific guidance in sections 3 and 4 of this Guidance Document.

5.2 Dogs which have resided in New Zealand for less than 6 months, have resided in high-risk countries in the preceding 6 months and have a rabies vaccination that has been administered in the United States of America and has been endorsed by the USDA.

- (1) These dogs do not require an official assurance provided the rabies vaccination has been administered in the United States of America, and a original rabies vaccination certificate which has been endorsed in accordance with the CDC requirements, or a USDA export certificate which includes the rabies vaccination administered in the United States of America and which has been endorsed by the USDA.
- (2) These dogs follow the specific guidance in sections 3 and 4 of this Guidance Document.

5.3 Dogs which have resided in New Zealand for less than 6 months, have resided in high-risk countries in the preceding 6 months and which have a rabies vaccination that has been administered in a country other than the United States of America (including in New Zealand).

- (1) These dogs require the official assurance (USPET9) in addition to the *CDC Import Form (receipt)*.
- (2) The provision of USPET9, with a *CDC Import Form (receipt)* supersedes any other generic CDC published model certificates for dogs originating from New Zealand which fall into this category of residency and rabies vaccination.
- (3) These dogs are subject to mandatory quarantine at a CDC registered animal care facility.
- (4) If the dog has a valid rabies serology titre the quarantine period is 3 days.
- (5) If the dog does not have a valid rabies serology titre the minimum quarantine period is 28 days.

5.3.1 Microchip

- (1) The dog(s) for export are to fully comply with the *Animal Products Notice: Export Requirements for Live Animals Microchipping*.
- (2) The date format used throughout the official assurance (USPET9) is DD/Month/YYYY.

If the microchip implantation date is unknown, record the first verified scan of the microchip.

- (3) The microchip must be scanned, verified, and recorded immediately prior to the administration of the rabies vaccination to be considered valid.

5.3.2 Rabies vaccination

- (1) The rabies vaccine that is licensed in New Zealand at the time of publishing has a 3-year duration of activity and does not require a booster prior to this even for a primary vaccination.

- (2) The vaccination is considered valid:
 - a) 28 days after the administration of a primary vaccination; or
 - b) immediately after the administration of a subsequent vaccination administered prior to the due date (end of the period of validity).
- (3) A vaccination administered after the due date (end of the period of validity) recorded for the most recent previous vaccination must be considered a primary vaccination.

6 Additional information

6.1.1 Assistance dogs

- (1) Assistance dogs must comply with all the conditions as stated in the OMAR, including the *CDC Import Form (receipt)* and must be issued with an AWEC.

6.1.2 Importation of dogs to the United States of America for commercial sale or adoption

- (1) The importation of dogs to the United States for commercial sale, whether through retail or whole-sale channels, or fee-based adoption requires that in addition to the **CDC Dog Import Form (receipt)** and the official assurance **USPET9** and **AWEC**, these dogs will also require:
 - a) an import permit issued by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Animal Care.

<https://efile.aphis.usda.gov/s/>
 - b) to be vaccinated for distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, parainfluenza and leptospirosis.

6.1.3 Vaccinations for dogs to the United States of America for commercial sale or adoption

- (1) The distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, parainfluenza and leptospirosis vaccine required to be given within 12 months prior to entry into the United States of America does not have to be recorded on the official assurance and does not have to be endorsed by the Official Veterinarian.
- (2) A private registered veterinarian will need to sign a “certificate of health” stating that the dog has been vaccinated for distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, parainfluenza and leptospirosis on veterinary practice note/letterhead paper, ensuring that the veterinarian’s name, qualification and Veterinary Council number are printed beneath their signature.

An example “certificate of health” can be found in Section 6 of this guidance document and can be adapted to suit. This example “certificate of health” is available on the MPI website.

- (3) The vaccination records must be attached to the export health certificate, and must accompany the dog or cat to the United States of America.
- (4) General vaccination requirements:
 - a) Vaccinated means the animal(s) has either received the final dose of a primary vaccination course or the booster to complement the primary course in any timeframes recommended by the vaccine manufacturer, and the duration of immunity will be continuous until the scheduled time of export.
 - b) Manufacturer’s instructions or recommendations refers to the administration of the vaccine at the age and frequency that is recommended by the manufacturer to achieve protection. The clinical veterinarian should refer to the manufacturer, as well as current national and international vaccine guidelines, to determine the frequency of vaccinations.
 - c) The vaccination requirements are considered satisfied if:
 - i) the animal’s microchip(s) is verified at the time of vaccine administration; and
 - ii) the animal is the age recommended by the manufacturer when receiving the vaccine; and
 - iii) the vaccine(s) has not expired at the time of administration. That is, vaccines can be used up until and including their expiry date, but not after.

- d) The vaccine's duration of immunity or next vaccine due date should be determined by the clinical veterinarian administering the vaccine and recorded on the vaccination record. The duration of immunity should not be longer than the manufacturer's recommendations.
 - i) If the vaccine is not administered before or on the due date, then it is considered to have lapsed.
 - ii) If a vaccine's duration of immunity lapses, a clinical veterinarian should determine whether a primary vaccination course should be repeated, or just a booster, but this should align with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- (5) Further guidance for dogs being imported into the United States of America for commercial sale or adoption can be found in the following link:
 - [How to bring dogs into the United States for commercial sale or adoption \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/animal/healthcertification/how-to-bring-dogs-into-the-us)
 - or by contacting ac.dogimport.mailbox@usda.gov

7 Guidance for the completion of USPET9

- (1) With regards to the name and address of the consignor, this means the name and address of the owner in New Zealand.
- (2) Each dog requires its own official assurance.

7.1.1 Functionality of the USPET9 certificate template

Yellow highlights

- (1) Yellow highlights are sections that information is entered into the first field will automatically be replicated in the corresponding boxes throughout the rest of the document.

This works for the microchip number.

The microchip number in Section I of the certificate template, must be entered first and will then be listed in the rabies vaccination table and the rabies titre table.

- (2) Submit your template to Verification Services with the yellow highlights still present. The yellow highlights will be removed by Verification Services.

Green highlights

- (1) Green highlights are reminders to delete unused rows and tables.
- (2) Delete the unused rabies blood sample table in clause 3.2 where no valid rabies titre test is recorded.

MS Word guidance

- To remove the extra rows from tables
 - Select the section of rows to remove, then right click on that section.
 - Select "delete table"

Limitations of the background formatting

- (1) It is worth noting that due to the limitations of the formatting available for this document and depending on the computer and operating system you are using, you may notice that the auto populate field for the microchip have a nonrelevant title field which appears when you delete anything from the field. This is to be expected and is part of the work around to allow for the auto populations. It will not be present on the certificate produced.

8 Example “Certificate of Health” for Dogs exported for commercial sale or adoption for private veterinarians

Veterinary Practice Logo/ Branding

Today's Date [dd/mm/yyyy]

Additional Health Information

Pet Name: [Animal Name]
Species: [Animal Species]
Breed: [Animal Breed]
Sex: [Animal sex, neutering status]
Colour: [Animals predominant colour]
Date of Birth: [dd/mm/yyyy]
Microchip Number: [Microchip Number]

To whom it may concern,

This is to certify that I, Dr [Vet Name including post nominals], examined the above animal identified with microchip [Microchip Number] belonging to [Owner Full Name] of [Owners New Zealand address], New Zealand on [dd/mm/yyyy].

The dog was vaccinated against canine distemper virus, canine hepatitis virus, *Leptospira interrogans* and canine parvovirus and parainfluenza.

Microchip number	Date of vaccination	Manufacturer of vaccine	Vaccine batch number	Date next vaccination due

I found [Animal Name] [Owner's Surname] identified with microchip [Microchip Number] to be healthy, with no evidence of any disease or parasites, and fully vaccinated for Rabies and thereby certify this animal as fit to travel.

Yours sincerely,

Signature

Dr [Vet Name] [post nominals] (Reg. [Vet Council Reg Number])
[Practice Name]
[Practice Address]
New Zealand

9 Return to New Zealand

- (1) If you are planning on returning to New Zealand with your pet in the future, please contact the MPI Animal Imports team to obtain all the relevant information on importing pets back into New Zealand, and if there is anything that can facilitate your animals return to New Zealand. We strongly suggest that this is done before your pet is exported from New Zealand, as not every country can meet the New Zealand import conditions, and so you may not be able to import your pet back into New Zealand.

For all the necessary information on importation into New Zealand, contact animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz.

Disclaimer

This guidance does not constitute, and should not be regarded as, legal advice. While every effort has been made to ensure the information in this guidance is accurate, the Ministry for Primary Industries does not accept any responsibility or liability whatsoever for any error of fact, omission, interpretation or opinion that may be present, however it may have occurred.