



## **Requirements to Import a Dog or Cat into New Jersey**

### **What are the requirements to bring a dog into New Jersey?**

Dogs imported into New Jersey are required to be accompanied by a health certificate completed and signed by a veterinarian licensed in the country or state of origin, pursuant to New Jersey Administrative Code 8:23-1.1 (see full text of the regulation below). The health certificate should be completed and signed within 30 days of travel. Dogs exposed to, infected with, or displaying clinical signs of communicable diseases, shall not be imported into New Jersey until treated, fully recovered, re-examined and certified by a licensed veterinarian to be free of diseases. The health certificate and other importation records should be maintained by the animal owner in New Jersey.

**If bringing a dog into New Jersey from outside the United States**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have additional requirements that need to be met. Information on their requirements can be found online:

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/index.html>
- USDA: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/another-country-to-us-import/dogs#modal-link-cdc-alert>
  - Additional USDA requirements for commercial dog imports:  
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/live-animal-import/commercial-dog-import>

Contact CDC or USDA directly for questions about their requirements.

If traveling by plane, individuals should contact their airlines for any additional requirements imposed by the airline.

### **N.J.A.C. 8:23-1.1 New Jersey regulations for importation of dogs**

“Dogs shall not be brought into this state excepting when in transit or for breeding, laboratory, or exhibition purposes unless accompanied by a health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian of the state or nation of the dog’s origin indicating that the dog is free from rabies and other communicable disease and has not recently been exposed to any such disease. This certificate shall also state the breed, sex, age, point of origin, point of destination, the name and post office address of the consignee or owner and the consignor or seller and if the dog has been vaccinated, type and date of vaccination.”

### **What are the requirements to bring a cat into New Jersey?**

If the cat is being brought into New Jersey from outside the United States, information from CDC on importation of cats can be found online:

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-us/>

Contact CDC directly for questions about their requirements. There are no specific requirements for importation of cats into New Jersey.

### **Is rabies vaccination required for import of dogs and cats into New Jersey?**

Although rabies vaccination is not specifically required for importation of dogs into the State, New Jersey law requires all dogs 7 months of age or older to be licensed by the municipality where they are housed. Current rabies vaccination is a prerequisite for dog licensure.

Owners of imported dogs that are licensed in another state and bearing a registration tag for the current year shall immediately apply for a dog license in the municipality where the dog is kept, if they are remaining in New Jersey for 90 days or more. Owners of dogs that are unlicensed and staying in the state for more than 10 days shall immediately apply for a dog license in the municipality where the dog will be kept.

Vaccination against rabies is strongly recommended for all cats in New Jersey, including cats kept exclusively indoors. Most New Jersey municipalities have cat licensing requirements which require current rabies vaccination.

### **Contact information:**

- For additional questions on importing dogs or cats into New Jersey, contact New Jersey Department of Health, Communicable Disease Service: 609-826-4872
- For information on importing livestock and poultry into New Jersey, contact the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health:  
<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/>
- For importing wildlife and exotic animals into New Jersey, contact the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife:  
<https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife/exotic-and-nongame-wildlife-permit-applications/>