

REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTATION / EXPORTATION OF CATS & DOGS FOR THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA:

TO BRING YOUR DOG OR CAT INTO COSTA RICA FROM THE UNITED STATES:

The dog or cat must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian, and endorsed by a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) veterinarian. That endorsement needs to be done by the APHIS Veterinary Services Area Office in your home state. Contact information for that office can be found on the [Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(APHIS\)](#), then clicking on, "Travel with my pet", on the right side. Additional information shall include:

Certification Statements

1. The dog/cat was examined and found to be healthy and free of any clinical signs of infectious disease. This examination should be conducted within 2 weeks of the departure date.
2. Dogs were vaccinated against distemper, hepatitis, Leptospirosis, parvovirus and rabies.
3. Cats were vaccinated against rabies.

Vaccination Requirements

1. See Certification Statement No. 2 above.
2. Animals over 3 months of age must be vaccinated against rabies.

Other Information

1. It is recommended that an International Certificate (APHIS FORM 7001) for Small Animals be used.
2. The health certificate should be made out in duplicate.
3. The health certificate does NOT need to be signed by a Notary Public, nor does it need to be stamped by the Costa Rican Consular office.
4. Animals exported in commercial lot numbers must be accompanied by an Import Permit. Personal pets (dogs or cats) do NOT need an Import Permit.
5. The official rabies vaccination certificate must accompany the health documents and is valid for the period of the vaccine (1 or 3 years).
6. The dog/cat and supporting documentation will be inspected/reviewed upon arrival to Costa Rica.

There are two (2) ways for personally-owned pets (dogs and cats) to enter Costa Rica:

- 1) Pets that enter with the owner either in-cabin or as "baggage" on the same flight and enter on the baggage claim area: these pets require the above documentation.

Depending upon the length of stay in Costa Rica, pets entering Costa Rica from the U.S. may or may not need additional documentation in order to leave Costa Rica and return to the U.S.:

- a) If the pet enters Costa Rica and stays longer than the validity of the U.S. Health Certificate (30 days for APHIS Form 7001) or rabies certificate, then that pet will need a valid Costa Rican Health Certificate or rabies certificate in order to leave.
 - b) If the pet leaves during the time period of the validity of the U.S. Health Certificate and rabies certificate, then that is all that is required to leave Costa Rica.
- 2) Dogs and cats that enter Costa Rica for commercial reasons, or, are shipped as cargo, or the owner has two or more large breed dogs, then in these cases the animals will be directed directly to a Customs "warehouse", and will need all of the documentation found above as well as requiring an Import Permit (Sanitary Health Permit) from the Animal Quarantine Offices (SENASA-Departamento de Cuarentena Animal - SEE BELOW) as well as needing to satisfy the required Customs procedures (all this is done using a Customs Broker). NOTE: The animals are well cared for in the Customs "warehouse". The Import Permit costs approximately \$20.
 - 3) It is important that you contact the airline for additional requirements.

TO TAKE YOUR DOG OR CAT FROM COSTA RICA BACK TO THE UNITED STATES (if the original Health Certificate or Rabies Vaccination Certificate FROM the U.S. has expired or if origin is Costa Rica):

You will need a Certificate of Good Health from your veterinarian in Costa Rica AND an export authorization issued by the Costa Rican Ministry of Agriculture (SENASA-Departamento de Cuarentena Animal). Normally, your Costa

Rican veterinarian can take care of all the required authorizations. If he/she does not, you will also need to visit the Ministry of Agriculture directly to obtain the export authorization. The Ministry (SENASA- Cuarentena Animal) is located in Barrial de Heredia, Jardines del Recuerdo, 2 Km West, 400 Meters South, Heredia. Telephone number: 2260-8300 Ext. 2024 or 2093 or 2260-9046. You will need to take with you to the Ministry the following stamps, which can be purchased at most book/stationary stores: one "fiscal" stamp of ¢25.00 and one "archivo" stamp of ¢5.00.

To pay the required fee, you must deposit ¢4,992.00 (please confirm the correct amount with SENASA before depositing since amounts change frequently) into one of the following accounts:

BANCO	No CUENTA	MON EDA	NOMBRE	CUENTA CLIENTE
Banco de Costa Rica	001-262585-7	COLON ES	Servicio Nacional de Salud Animal	1520100102 625857
Banco Popular y de Desarrollo Comunal	161-010-089-1- 019474-1	COLON ES	Servicio Nacional de Salud Animal	161010089 10194741
Banco Nacional de Costa Rica	100-01-061- 000890-1	COLON ES	Servicio Nacional de Salud Animal	151061100 10008909
Banco Crédito Agrícola de Cartago	105519621	COLON ES	Servicio Nacional de Salud Animal	15302001055 196219

It takes approximately ONE to TWO working days for the Ministry of Agriculture to issue your authorization. This should be done within 30 days of your trip to the U.S.

REVISED: March 7, 2011
IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT THE COSTA RICA APHIS OFFICE.
TEL. (506) 2290-4548, FAX (506) 2296-3556.