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Bring Five or Fewer Pet Birds into the United States

Last Modified:



This page will guide you through the requirements for bringing pet birds into the United States from another country.

A shipment of pet birds is defined as **five or fewer birds** brought into the United States that aren't intended for resale and are **not** a poultry species.

*Not all birds qualify for pet travel.

If you're bringing in six or more pet birds or any number of birds classified as poultry , they do not qualify for pet travel. This means they are subject to different regulations.

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The following birds DON'T qualify as pets, meaning they're subject to different regulations. Because they may carry and transmit certain diseases to the U.S. poultry industry, these birds are regulated as poultry.

- Chickens
- Doves
- Ducks
- Geese
- Grouse
- Guinea fowl
- Partridges
- Pea fowl
- Pheasants
- Pigeons
- Quail
- Swans
- Turkeys

View the import regulations if your bird does not qualify as a pet

Carefully read ALL requirements on this page.

Your pet bird may be refused entry into the United States if you fail to meet these import requirements. USDA is one of several U.S. agencies that regulate the entry of pets into the United States. It is important that you notify and coordinate with all responsible government agencies.

Canadian Travel—By Land

Pet birds starting travel in Canada with destination of Alaska, U.S. must email the U.S. Alaska Import Manager at vs.sumas.poe@usda.gov or vs.nbp@usda.gov or call 360-988-5715 for detailed instructions on port passage.

Shipments starting travel in the lower 48 States or the Alaskan state (of the United States), transiting Canada with the final destination of Alaska or the lower 48 States, must contact vs.sumas.poe@usda.gov or vs.nbp@usda.gov, or call 360-988-5715 to obtain detailed instructions for transiting Canada into Alaska.

Summary

The requirements for bringing your pet bird into the United States vary depending on all of the following factors:

- The foreign country you're traveling from
- Whether your bird is considered U.S.-origin (as determined by a U.S. health certificate issued before the pet bird left the United States)
- Whether your bird originated from or will transit through countries or zones affected with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

PET BIRD ORIGIN		REQUIREMENTS			
Country	**Entering at/from...**	**Import Permit**	**Veterinary Health Certificate**	**Port Inspection Upon Entry**	**Quarantine**
Canada	Pet bird(s) entering at a **land** border port	Not required (see "Notes" below when originating from or transiting HPAI/vND zones)[1]	Not required (except when Canada is affected with HPAI or Newcastle disease)[2]	Required	Not Required (see "Notes" below when originating from or transiting HPAI/vND zones)[1]

PET BIRD ORIGIN		REQUIREMENTS			
Country	**Entering at/from...**	**Import Permit**	**Veterinary Health Certificate**	**Port Inspection Upon Entry**	**Quarantine**
Pet bird(s) entering at an **air** or **sea** port	Required	Not required (except when Canada is affected with HPAI or Newcastle disease)[2]	Required	Not Required (see "Notes" below when originating from or transiting HPAI/vND zones)[1]	
Mexico	Pet bird(s) entering at a **land** border port	Entry Prohibited			
	Pet bird(s) entering at an **air** or **sea** port	Required	Required	Required	30-day Federal Quarantine[3]
U.S.-Origin Birds[4,5]	Pet bird(s) coming from HPAI-Free country or zone	Required (unless via Canadian land border ports)	Required (unless residency abroad for less than 60 days)	Required	30-day Home Quarantine (unless residency abroad for less than 60 days)

PET BIRD ORIGIN		REQUIREMENTS			
Country	**Entering at/from...**	**Import Permit**	**Veterinary Health Certificate**	**Port Inspection Upon Entry**	**Quarantine**
Non-U.S.-Origin Birds	And U.S.-origin pet bird(s) returning from HPAI-affected country or zone	Required	Required	Required	30-day Federal Quarantine

Notes:

[1] When Canada is affected by HPAI or Newcastle disease, pet birds that originate from or transit through a zone restricted by CFIA due to HPAI or Newcastle disease **must be flown directly to John F. Kennedy International Airport (New York) or Miami International Airport (Florida)** to undergo a **30-day Federal quarantine** with mandatory testing. These bird(s) **will not be allowed** to import through a land border port.

[2] If Canada is affected with HPAI or Newcastle disease, they will be listed under the "Temporary Restrictions" section as "Avian Commodities" here.

[3] **All pet birds from Mexico must undergo Federal quarantine upon arrival in the United States.** These pet birds must be **flown directly to John F. Kennedy International Airport (New York) or Miami International Airport (Florida)** to undergo a **30-day Federal quarantine** with mandatory testing. Pet birds are **not allowed** to import through a land border port.

[4] **In order to qualify as a U.S.-origin returning pet bird destined to home quarantine, the pet bird must have only resided in HPAI-free countries or zones, and a U.S. export health certificate must have been issued prior to the pet bird leaving the United States. The original health certificate must**

be shown during the permit application and must accompany the pet bird during the importation process. As of February 19, 2018, **all U.S.-origin pet birds, unless weighing less than 100 grams, must be identified by either a microchip, leg band, or tattoo with the number listed and matching on both the U.S.-issued health certificate and the foreign-issued health certificate, and then identified during the port inspection. Pet birds may undergo the 30-day quarantine at home if they meet requirements and have resided outside the United States for over 60 days.** The importer must pay the home quarantine costs when applying for the import permit. View user fees for home quarantine.

[5] When returning after residing in Canada for over 60 days, U.S.-origin pet birds can return to the United States as Canadian pet birds, as there is no quarantine requirement if they haven't resided in or transited through HPAI- or Newcastle-affected zones.

If you have **pet birds from Mexico that are refused entry into the United States,** review and follow requirements (65.31 KB) to return the shipment to Mexico.

See More See Less

As of February 19, 2018, all U.S.-origin pet birds weighing more than 100 grams (roughly the size of a clenched fist), except those traveling to the United States from Canada, must be identified by either a microchip, leg band, or tattoo to qualify for home quarantine upon returning to the United States from HPAI-free countries.

Travel Requirements

The import requirements for pet bird(s) include:

- USDA import permit
- Veterinary export health certificate
- USDA port inspection
- Import quarantine

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may also regulate pet bird imports. All shipments should be cleared with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) upon arrival in the United States. CBP Link is available to facilitate pet bird's CBP agriculture inspection. Importers may request an inspection, upload required documentation, and view the status and details of the inspection before arrival using the app.

The CBP One Mobile Application is available to expedite pet bird's CBP agriculture inspection. Importers may request an inspection, upload required documentation, and view the status and details of the inspection before arrival using the app.

Expand All

Import Permit

Use the Veterinary Services Permitting Assistant (VSPA) to confirm your live animal import permit requirements. Select the "Live Animals" tab. The VSPA will provide you with a summary of required import documents, including permit applications, certificates, informational letters, and more.

- Importers should apply for an import permit online using APHIS eFile. This will help expedite the entire permitting process and enable users to track the status of their permits, confirm receipt, and easily renew or amend existing permits. For more information on import permit application, see Animal Health Permits.
- Importers must submit the import permit application at least **7 business days** prior to shipping the birds. You need to know your route of travel and specify a travel date before applying.
- The original import permit is valid for **30 days** and must accompany all pet bird shipments.

For questions about import permits or permit applications:

Live Animal Import Permit Team

Email: laipermits@usda.gov

Phone: 301-851-3300

Veterinary Export Health Certificate

- Pet birds from Canada, when free of HPAI or Newcastle disease, and U.S.-origin pet birds that have resided outside the United States for less than 60 days, do not need a foreign health certificate.
- All other pet birds imported from any region of the world must be accompanied by a health certificate in English or with English translation that is:
  - Issued by a salaried veterinarian of the national government of the exporting region, **or**
  - Issued by a certifying official **and**
  - Endorsed by the competent authority of that country.
- Any allowable or required deviations of endorsement must be specified on the import permit.
- Exporting countries may use the model health certificates available below or use their own document as long as it contains U.S. import health certificate requirements.
- Model health certificates:
  - Pet birds from HPAI-affected country or zone:
    - Avian-Pet Birds-HPAI-Affected Countries-Model Health Certificate (698.1 KB) | August 2026
  - Pet birds from HPAI-free country or zone:
    - Avian-Pet Birds-HPAI-Free Countries-Model Health Certificate (816.06 KB) | August 2026
  - United Kingdom:
    - 4948EHC_V7.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)
  - Canada (if affected with HPAI or Newcastle disease):
    - Avian - Pet Birds - Canada - Negotiated Health Certificate (132.04 KB) | February 2026

Port Inspection

- Pet bird shipments must enter the United States through **designated** or **limited ports** where a USDA port veterinarian is available for inspection. If pet birds attempt to enter the United States at another port, they will be refused entry by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel.
- A USDA port veterinarian must inspect the pet bird(s) at the U.S. port of entry, unless otherwise indicated on the U.S. import permit.
- The importer must arrange for inspection at least **3 business days** in advance by contacting the USDA port veterinarian listed on the import permit, including pet bird importers entering the United States at a land border port.
- The USDA port veterinarian will visually inspect the shipment, export health certificate, and U.S. import permit. View user fee rates for inspection services.

Import Quarantine

- Most pet birds require a 30-day quarantine with mandatory testing for HPAI and Newcastle disease.
    - Canadian pet birds will not require a 30-day quarantine unless Canada is affected with HPAI or Newcastle disease and a pet bird originates from or transits through a zone established by CFIA due to HPAI or Newcastle disease. Those will need to undergo a 30-day quarantine at a U.S. Federal quarantine facility.
    - U.S.-origin birds returning from HPAI-free countries and zones that have resided outside the United States for less than 60 days will not need to undergo any quarantine.
- Quarantine must occur at a **U.S. Federal quarantine facility,** except for U.S.-origin pet birds returning from an HPAI-free country that are eligible for home quarantine.
    - USDA port personnel who conducted the initial inspection at the U.S. port of entry, along with the importer, will take the bird from the port of entry to the Animal Import Center. USDA port personnel will explain in detail the quarantine and testing procedures.
- Importers should make reservations directly with the USDA Animal Import Center of choice before the shipment arrives. USDA must confirm the reservation before issuing the import permit.

- Fees include, but are not limited to, port inspection, laboratory testing that occurs during quarantine, and the quarantine stay. View user fee rates for inspection services. The Animal Import Center will provide an estimate of the total quarantine costs.

USDA Animal Import Centers

For quarantine-related questions, contact one of the following USDA Animal Import Center quarantine facilities:

Miami Animal Import Center

Email: vs.mpo@usda.gov

Phone: 305-876-2200

Fax: 305-876-2201

Website:

- Miami Animal Import Center

Mailing Address:

USDA-APHIS-VS

6300 NW 36th St.

Miami, FL 33122

Website:

- Miami Animal Import Center

More Details:

Port of Entry: Miami International Airport

Species Received: Pet birds and shipments of commercial birds

New York Animal Import Center

Email: vspsnic@usda.gov

Phone: 845-838-5500

Fax: 845-838-5575

Website:

- New York Animal Import Center

Mailing Address:

USDA-APHIS-VS

474 International Blvd.

Rock Tavern, NY 12575

Website:

- New York Animal Import Center

More Details:

Port of Entry: JFK International Airport

Species Received: Birds, poultry, equines, ruminants, swine, and certain zoo animals

All Contacts

Home Quarantine

U.S. origin pet birds returning from an HPAI-free country that have resided outside the U.S. for more than 60 days may qualify for home quarantine:

- The import permit will list the home quarantine location. Home quarantine is approved through eFile when the permit is issued, as long as the bird arrives with compliant import documentation and passes the port inspection. The

quarantine cycle begins when the pet bird leaves the port of entry for home and continues for at least 30 days.
- The pet bird(s) will be tested twice during quarantine for HPAI and Newcastle disease. Both sets of samples must have negative results before the bird(s) will be released from home quarantine.
- USDA port personnel will conduct an initial inspection at the port of entry and take the first set of samples. The importer must sign an Agreement of Pet Bird Owner (VS Form 17-8) (128.93 KB) after the initial inspection and sample collection.
- A USDA veterinarian will visit your home to collect the second set of samples from your bird(s) for testing. You should be prepared to restrain your bird for the inspection and sample collection.
- Fees for the home quarantine, home inspection and testing, and port of entry inspection are paid at the time of permit application. If importers arrive at the U.S. port of entry outside regular business hours, an additional fee at the time of arrival will be charged.

Land Ports

- Houlton, ME
- Highgate Springs, VT
- Alexandria Bay, NY
- Niagara Falls, NY/Lewiston Bridge, NY
- Detroit, MI
- Port Huron, MI
- Pembina, ND
- Dunseith, ND
- Portal, ND
- Raymond, MT
- Sweetgrass, MT
- Eastport, ID
- Sumas WA

Limited availability based on staffing and additional user fees

Oroville, WA

USDA Transit Process

- Pet bird(s) that originate from or transit an HPAI-affected region may not transit the United States en route to a third country destination.
- Eligible pet birds transiting the United States from the exporting country to a third country destination must be accompanied by a USDA transit permit (211.74 KB).
- The transit permit application process is the same as the import permit application process (see USDA Import Permit section). Denoting the route of travel on the application distinguishes the type of permit requested.
- USDA oversees transit shipments while they are in the United States. The importer must arrange for USDA services at least **72 hours** in advance by contacting the USDA port veterinarian whose contact information is listed on the transit permit.
- The importer must submit a contingency plan with the permit application and the request for service at the U.S. transit port.
- The transit permit lists any special instructions for the importer and port staff. For more information, see VSG 13404.2 Transit Shipments of Live Animal Commodities (479.88 KB) and Notice Regarding APHIS Live Animal Import and Third-Country Import Transit Permits (272.29 KB).

Transiting shipments may require monitoring by USDA upon arrival at the first port of entry.

Designated Ports

California: Los Angeles

Florida: Miami

New York: New York

Limited Ports

Alaska: Anchorage and Fairbanks

California: San Diego

Florida: Jacksonville, Port Canaveral, St. Petersburg-Clearwater, and Tampa

Georgia: Atlanta

Hawaii: Honolulu *(importer should check with State veterinarian if a State quarantine is also required)*

Illinois: Chicago

Louisiana: New Orleans

Maryland: Baltimore

Maine: Portland

Minnesota: Minneapolis

Montana: Great Falls

Kentucky: Covington

Ohio: Greater Cincinnati International Airport

Oregon: Portland

Puerto Rico: San Juan

Texas: Galveston and Houston

Washington: Seattle, Spokane, and Tacoma

Home Quarantine

U.S.-origin pet birds issued with a U.S. health certificate (must show identification) returning into the United States may qualify for home quarantine. The health certificate should be attached in the import permit application.

U.S. State and Territory Requirements

Find U.S. State and Territory Requirements

APHIS doesn't regulate the interstate movement of pets by their owners. Domestic movement requirements are set by the receiving State or Territory. To learn more about the requirements for moving your pet to another State or Territory, select your destination State or Territory from the list below.

If you have questions or need clarification on any of the requirements, or your destination State or Territory is not in the list, please contact the State animal health official for that State or Territory.

Select a State or Territory Select a State or Territo ▼ Go

Airline Requirements

Check with your airline to determine whether they have any additional requirements.

Questions?

View answers to frequently asked questions or contact us for help.

Live Animal Import Permit Team

Contact APHIS' Live Animal Import Permit team if you have questions before you apply for a permit.

For questions about import permits or permit applications:

Live Animal Import Permit Team

Email: laipermits@usda.gov

Phone: 301-851-3300

APHIS Port Services

For questions about import inspections at a port of entry, quarantine of animals arriving from a foreign country, or requesting approval as a private animal import quarantine facility, contact APHIS Port Services.

- Select a State - ▼

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Live Animal Import and Export

Contact APHIS' Live Animal Import and Export team for questions about current trade restrictions, or other questions not related to permits.

For general questions related to the import of a live animal:

Live Animal Import and Export

Email: laie@usda.gov

Phone: 301-851-3300

All Contacts
Print