Import Protocol for Raptors from Canada by Land

October 2026

Definition

Raptors (*birds of prey; predatory birds*) are used in various ways by their owners, including hunting, exhibitions, and companionship. The APHIS definition of raptors includes, but is not limited to, falcons, hawks, eagles, vultures, and owls. The two categories for importation of raptors into the United States are captive (no free flight) and free flight.

General Requirements

Raptors originating from Canada:

1. Canadian-origin raptors can be moved across land borders **without an import permit**.
2. A current veterinary health certificate for commercial birds (HA1945), issued by a full-time salaried veterinarian of Canada and endorsed by the Canadian competent authority (Canadian Food Inspection Agency [CFIA]) within 30 days of U.S. arrival, is required.
3. Raptors used for **free flight** must have a both valid health certificate for commercial birds (HA1945) **and** the addendum to HA1945 issued by a full-time salaried veterinarian of Canada and endorsed by CFIA. The addendum is not needed for captive raptors.

Raptors originating from the United States:

1. U.S.-origin raptors can be moved across the U.S.–Canada land border **without an import permit**.
2. U.S.-origin **captive** raptors that have stayed in Canada for **less than 60 days** do not need a CFIA-issued import health certificate; however, a U.S.-issued export health certificate is required for re-entry into the United States.
3. U.S.-origin **captive** raptors that have stayed in Canada for **more than 60 days** must have a CFIA-issued import health certificate for commercial birds (HA1945).
4. U.S.-origin **free-flight** raptors that have stayed in Canada for **less than 60 days** do not need a CFIA-issued import health certificate **but** must have the addendum to HA1945, issued by a full-time salaried veterinarian of Canada and endorsed by CFIA.
5. U.S.-origin **free-flight** raptors that have stayed in Canada for **more than 60 days** must have a CFIA-issued import health certificate for commercial birds (HA1945) and the addendum to HA1945, issued by a full-time salaried veterinarian of Canada and endorsed by CFIA.
6. Raptors that originate from or transit through a control zone established by the CFIA due to outbreaks of Newcastle disease or highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) or are currently under quarantine or have any restrictions to their movement are not eligible for import into the United States.

Veterinary Port Inspection

1. A USDA port veterinarian must inspect the raptors at the first U.S. port of entry, unless otherwise indicated on the U.S. import permit.
2. The importer must arrange for inspection **at least 3 business days** in advance by contacting the USDA port veterinarian, whose contact information is listed on the import permit.
3. The USDA port veterinarian will visually inspect the shipment and health documentation. View user fee rates for USDA inspection services.

Quarantine Requirements

Quarantine is not required for raptors from Canada importing into the United States by land.

Ports where raptors can cross into the United States from Canada by land:

Eastport, Idaho	Raymond, Montana	Champlain, New York
Houlton, Maine	Sweetgrass, Montana	Niagara Falls, New York (Lewiston Bridge)
Detroit, Michigan	Dunseith, North Dakota	Derby Line, Vermont
Port Huron, Michigan	Pembina, North Dakota	Highgate Springs, Vermont
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan	Portal, North Dakota	Oroville, Washington
Baudette, Minnesota	Alexandria Bay, New York	Sumas, Washington

General Questions:
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