



274 Southampton St Boston, MA 02118 | P: 617-427-2210 | F: 617-427-2215 | travel@bostonanimalhosp.com

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) for International Travel Certifications

Are your veterinarians USDA-accredited?

Our USDA-accredited veterinarian is Dr. Jeffrey Evans. Our associate doctors are currently working on their accreditation but they have not been accredited yet.

Do you offer same-day services?

No. International travel health certificates require extensive time and research and we cannot accommodate same-day services. *Please note that if you are traveling within 14 days of your initial inquiry, there is an expedited fee for urgent requests and we cannot guarantee that we will have availability.*

How far in advance should I prepare for international travel with my pet?

We highly recommend planning at least 4-6 weeks in advance prior to your intended departure date. Countries that require a Rabies titer test (also known as a FAVN report) require planning at least 8 to 12 weeks in advance prior to departure. Countries that have a time-sensitive certificate application process, such as the UK (dogs only) and Morocco, must be scheduled within an appropriate time frame prior to departure. Boston Animal Hospital cannot guarantee availability to facilitate your pet's certificate process. Please note that requests made less than 14 days prior to departure have additional fees for expedited services. International travel requirements for your pet can be found at this [link](#).

What are the requirements for a rabies titer test (FAVN report)?

Your animal must have a microchip and received TWO rabies vaccinations within its lifetime prior to rabies titer sampling; with the most recent rabies vaccination done within the last 12 months. If your animal requires a secondary or booster vaccine, it is recommended to wait 2-4 weeks after vaccination to obtain a blood sample for the rabies titer test.

What is the turnaround time for FAVN reports?

Kansas State University (KSU) has an average turnaround time of 6-8 weeks. Auburn University (AU) has an average turnaround time of 4-6 weeks. Expedited (STAT) services are unavailable at this time.

How much are your travel services? How much is the rabies titer test (FAVN report)?

Please review our Travel Pricing PDF for more details on our services. Once travel requirements have been assessed for your animal, a more accurate estimate of your travel expenses can be provided upon request. Please note that requests made less than 14 days prior to departure have additional fees for expedited services. Additional fees may apply for additional and/or requested services.

How is pricing determined?

We charge based on correspondence and research needed for documentation services. On average, extensive correspondence with our travel liaison begins weeks or months prior to departure. In addition, 3-4 hours are needed in-hospital to verify and submit documentation for your animal's certificate application. The price corresponds with the time and research needed to appropriately accommodate both the patient needs and our practice standards. Prices of our services are subject to change.

Can I have anxiety and/or sedation medication for my animal's travel?

It depends. The veterinarian needs to assess your animal's physical wellbeing and discuss your travel



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plans first. We are more likely to prescribe medication to an animal that is traveling in the cabin so the owner/traveler is able to monitor the animal for any adverse reactions. Animals that are traveling in the cargo are less likely to be monitored and we would recommend alternative solutions for your animal's travel anxiety. Please note if your pet is under the age of 12 months, we typically do not prescribe any anti-anxiety medications due to their development.

What is the health certificate exam process?

Our health certificate exams are **drop-off visits only** on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Our requested drop-off time is between 9AM and 11AM. Your pet will remain in a kennel during this timeframe. A complete physical examination will be performed and our USDA-accredited veterinarian will go over exam findings via phone call. Anxiety medication options can be discussed during this time. An estimated pick-up time is around 3PM and payment will be due. We can also try our best to coordinate a drop-off and pick-up time that works best for you if our requested times are not acceptable for you and your schedule.

Why are health certificate exams drop-off visits only?

We reserve our typical 30-minute appointments to patients requiring diagnostic exams. Drop-off visits allow us enough time for the physical examination and the certificate application process. We prefer to have the flexibility of guaranteeing accurate information and services for your pet's travel requirements during the duration of a drop-off visit.

What is the certificate application process?**

1. We **submit** certificate applications online through the USDA's application portal "VEHCS". This process can take up to 3 hours. Information must be accurate prior to submission and mistakes cause significant delays in the endorsing process.
2. After submission, the USDA/APHIS will place the application under **review**. The review process can take up to 5-7 business days after submission for completion and/or depending on your departure date.
3. The USDA will then finalize and **endorse** the certificate.
4. We supply the USDA/APHIS with an overnight shipping label and they **ship** a physical copy of the certificate and documents directly to the owner/traveler's mailing address. Clients can expect to receive the official certificate copy in the mail at least 1-2 business days before their departure date.

*** However, there are some certificates that do not require USDA endorsement. In addition, there are some certificates that can be endorsed electronically by the USDA and returned online via PDF.*

Can Boston Animal Hospital help me return to the United States with my pet?

Unfortunately, no. *We only provide export travel services.* Most of the health certificates we provide are valid for 30 days. Your pet may require additional requirements which can be state-specific depending on your return destination. You may need to contact your destination State's Department of Agriculture or the State Veterinarian's Office directly for further information. Or you can find more information at this [link](#).