

Hines Veterinary Group International Pet Travel Checklist

🐾 Essential Steps for a Smooth Relocation from Washington, D.C. Relocating with a pet requires careful planning, often starting months in advance. To ensure your pet meets the entry requirements for [Destination Country], follow this timeline:

1. 📅 4-6 Months Before Departure

Research Entry Requirements: Visit the official Ministry of Agriculture website for your destination or the USDA APHIS Pet Travel portal.

Microchip Verification: Ensure your pet has an ISO-compliant (15-digit) microchip implanted before their most recent Rabies vaccination.

Rabies Vaccination: Must be current. Some countries require a "waiting period" after the shot before travel is permitted.

2. 🩸 3-4 Months Before Departure (If Required)

Rabies Titer Test (FAVN): Many countries (e.g., Japan, South Korea, Australia, EU island nations) require a blood test to prove vaccine efficacy.

Note: Results can take 3-6 weeks to return from the lab.

3. ✈️ 21-30 Days Before Departure

Book Your Flight: Confirm your airline's specific kennel dimensions and health certificate window (usually 10 days).

Schedule Your Accredited Vet Visit: Book your appointment with us for the final health exam.

4. 🏥 10 Days Before Departure (The "Health Window")

Clinical Examination: Our USDA-accredited veterinarian will examine your pet to ensure they are fit for travel and free of infectious diseases.

Treatments: Administration of mandatory internal/external parasite treatments (standard for the UK, EU, and others).

Certificate Generation: We will issue the International Health Certificate (IHC) via the VEHCS digital portal for rapid processing.

5. 🏠 1-7 Days Before Departure (Endorsement)

USDA Endorsement: The certificate must be "endorsed" (signed/stamped) by the USDA Area Office.

Apostille (If Applicable): If your destination country requires an Apostille, this must be done at the U.S. Department of State in downtown D.C. after the USDA endorsement.

How Hines Veterinary Group Helps You:

- USDA-Accredited Veterinarians on staff.
- Digital submission (VEHCS) to reduce mail delays.
- Expert Consultation on specific country requirements.

Contact us today to start your pet's travel plan:

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