



76 Beech Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452  
(802) 878-6888 voice  
[www.vtvets.org](http://www.vtvets.org)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Linda Waite-Simpson, Executive Director  
802-878-6888  
[info@vtvets.org](mailto:info@vtvets.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**New CDC Requirements for Dogs Entering or Returning to the US Starting August 1, 2024**

*by Dr. M. Kathleen Shaw, DVM, VVMA Communications Committee*

Starting on August 1, 2024, dogs entering or returning to the United States must meet new specific requirements set forth by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). This includes both day and extended trips to Canada (as well as all other countries). If these requirements are not met, your dog's re-entry to the US will be delayed or denied. Here is a brief summary of the key points:

- **Age Requirement:** Your dog must be at least 6 months old upon entry or re-entry to the US.
- **Microchip Requirement:** Your dog must have a microchip implanted before its current rabies vaccination. If the rabies shot was administered before the microchip was implanted, it will not be considered valid and a booster will be required.
- **Rabies Vaccination:** Any rabies vaccination must be administered at least 28 days before entry to the US and must not have expired while you were out of the country.
- **Documentation:** You will need either a rabies certificate completed by a USDA-accredited veterinarian or a USDA-endorsed health certificate. Not all veterinarians are USDA-accredited, so check with your vet or search for accredited veterinarians here: <https://vsapps.aphis.usda.gov/vsps/public/VetSearch.do?method=display>
- **Health Status:** Your dog must appear healthy. If there are concerns, isolation, veterinary examination, and additional testing (at your expense) may be required to ensure your dog does not have a contagious disease.
- **CDC Dog Import Form:** You must have a CDC Dog Import Form receipt. This form should be filled out online ideally 2-10 days before entering or re-entering the US. It can also be filled out while in line at the border if you have internet access. The form requires a clear photograph of your dog showing its face and body. For dogs less than one year old at the time of arrival, the photograph should be taken within 10 days before arrival. There is no charge for submitting this form.

For further information, including a list of frequently asked questions and a “[DogBot](#)” to guide you through the requirements based on your travel plans, visit the CDC website: [www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-us](http://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-us)

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*The Vermont Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA) is a professional organization of 380 veterinarians dedicated to compassionate animal care and quality medicine.*

*Dr. M Kathleen Shaw, DVM, VVMA Communications Committee, can be available if you have any questions or for an interview. Please email Linda Waite-Simpson for contact information.*