

USDA Requirements for Rabies Certificate for International Travel:

The foregoing is based on current USDA and many countries point of entry requirements. There is no flexibility and our staff cannot create an exception. Rabies Certificate must be submitted prior to booking appointment.

All Rabies Certificates must include the following information:

1. Pet Identification Details

- **Dog's Name:** Must match travel documents
- **Microchip Number:** Must be an ISO-compliant, 15-digit universal microchip.
- **Microchip Implant Date:** Must explicitly prove the chip was implanted *before* or on the day the rabies vaccine was given, and implanted before primary shot.
- **Date of Birth** or exact age
- **Breed, Sex, Color, and Markings**

2. Vaccine Logistics & Details

- **Product Name:** The exact brand name of the rabies vaccine used (e.g., Defensor, Nobivac, Imrab).
- **Vaccine Manufacturer** (e.g., Zoetis, Merck, Merial)
- **Lot Number:** The specific production batch tracking number.
- **Vaccine Expiration Date:** The date the individual vial or batch expires.
- **Date Administered:** The calendar date your vet injected the vaccine.
- **Next Rabies Due Date:** The official date the 1-year or 3-year booster is required.

3. Veterinarian & Facility Verification

- **Printed Name & Signature:** The licensed veterinarian's signature.
- **Veterinary License Number**
- **Clinic Contact Information:** The official business name, physical address, phone number, and email address.

If your pet's rabies booster has lapsed by even **one single day**, some countries no longer consider the pet continuously protected. You must treat the next shot as a **primary vaccination (1-Year)**. These countries including the USDA enforce strict procedures for managing a vaccine lapse.

Mandatory 21-Day Waiting Period

- **Day 0 Tracking:** The day your pet receives the new rabies vaccine is counted as Day 0.
- **The Countdown:** Your pet cannot legally enter some countries, and the USDA will not sign off on your international health certificate, until **21 full days after the official date of vaccination**.
- **Travel Eligibility:** Your pet is eligible to cross the border on **Day 22**.

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Documenting the History

Border officials tracking compliance at the Point of Entry inspect the timelines on your paperwork carefully.

- **Show the History:** If you are trying to bypass the 21-day wait by claiming your pet was previously vaccinated, you must present the physical, unexpired rabies certificate(s) for the *previous* vaccine alongside the current one.
- **The Broken Chain:** If there is a calendar gap between the expiration of the old vaccine and the administration of the new one, the historical chain is broken. The 21-day clock resets automatically.
- **Titer Tests Do Not Bypass the Wait:** Getting a rabies blood titer test done will not waive or shorten the 21-day mandatory waiting period for a standard lapse.

Microchip:

For successful pet travel, your pet must have a **valid microchip implanted BEFORE receiving their qualifying rabies vaccination**. If the rabies vaccine is administered before the microchip is injected or scanned, major regulatory bodies—including the CDC and the European Union—will view the vaccine as completely invalid for travel.

Core Regulatory Rules

- **The Chronological Order:** You must follow the exact sequence: **Microchip First → Rabies Vaccine Second**. If your pet already has a microchip, the veterinarian must scan and record that chip number *before* injecting the booster.
- **ISO Compliance:** Most international destinations require a **15-digit ISO 11784/11785 compliant microchip**. If your pet has an older 9- or 10-digit chip, you may need to get a new ISO chip implanted or carry your own universal scanner.
- **Strict Documentation:** The exact microchip number must match perfectly across all veterinary logs, rabies certificates, and official government health forms.

If at any point microchip was given after rabies vaccination a booster is required, a 21-day period as the historical chain is broken.