



Date: January 6, 2024

To: CDC-registered Animal Care Facility (ACF)

Subject: Memorandum regarding understanding and training ACF staff in CBP port processes and adherence to international pet shipping standards

We are issuing this memorandum to stress the importance of ACF staff having knowledge and competencies in U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) processes and procedures at their local port of entry and in standards for international pet shipping. In CDC's experience, violations of CDC regulations relating to the importation of dogs under 42 CFR 71.51, or of procedures at local ports of entry, often stem from a lack of relevant training, awareness, or experience in pet shipping and transportation standards. Accordingly, we are stressing the importance of adherence to international pet shipping requirements and standards of care because these directly impact an ACF's ability to comply with regulations under 42 CFR 71.51.

Under regulations at 42 CFR 71.51(e)(2), "CBP will prescribe the time, place, and manner in which dogs are presented upon arrival at a port of entry, which may include prohibiting dogs from being presented within the Federal Inspection Station." Accordingly, standards among different U.S. ports of entry relating to the handling, processing, and transportation of arriving animals may differ based on the discretion of the CBP Port Director.

ACF should familiarize themselves with pet shipping requirements at their local port of entry, including CBP processes and procedures. The CBP Port Director has discretion regarding arrival and clearance requirements for animals at the port under their jurisdiction, including how animals are received and how Customs paperwork is processed. For instance, the CBP Port Director may require that an ACF only accept dogs for transport outside of the Federal Inspection Station (FIS); the FIS is defined as the Customs-controlled area of an airport where processing of passengers and baggage arriving into the United States occurs. The CBP Port Director may also require that dogs be post entered (i.e., CBP post-arrival request for the creation of an air waybill) and transferred to the control of the air carrier representative to relocate the dog from the FIS to the air carrier's cargo facility or other acceptable action, at CBP's discretion, before the ACF may accept dogs for transport to its facility.

In addition, the CBP Port Director may require dogs to be manifested only as cargo or have formal entries filed for commercial importations in the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE)¹. Formal entries require the use of a licensed customs broker and are required for dogs valued over \$2500 USD. Requirements may differ among ports of entry (due to individual circumstances) and ACF should become familiar with the rules for their specific port and should train staff on CBP port processes specific to their port of entry.

¹ <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/automated>

The International Pet and Animal Transportation Association (IPATA)² is a non-profit trade association of independent members who are dedicated to the safe and humane transport of pets and other animals. Membership in IPATA demonstrates knowledge and adherence to international pet shipping standards, including requirements for pets entering the United States. Pet shippers who are members of IPATA must follow ethical guidelines in pet travel and relocating animals worldwide. Many ACFs currently hold membership in IPATA.

ACFs that are not currently members may wish to consider joining IPATA to better understand pet shipping requirements and gain valuable knowledge in various aspects of pet shipping to enhance their operations as an ACF. Additionally, IPATA provides resources to its members that can help ACF effectively engage with port partners, including airlines, brokers, transporters, CBP, and CDC to ensure the safe transportation of animals into the United States.

We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring ACF staff knowledge and competencies in local CBP port processes and procedures and international pet shipping standards. Any questions concerning this memorandum may be addressed by contacting cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov.

² www.ipata.org