



**Yonge Sheppard
Animal Hospital**

Traveling with your Pet

Pets are cherished family members, and we understand how important it is to keep them with you as you move around the world. International pet travel requires careful planning - just like people, pets need proper documentation to cross borders.

This checklist will guide you through the essential steps, but *please note that requirements vary by country. It is your responsibility to thoroughly research your destination country's regulations, as well as those of any countries you will be entering along the way.*

Step 1: Research Your Destination Country's Pet Import Requirements

Requirements vary by country, so it's essential to research your destination's regulations well in advance.

Key Questions to Answer:

- Import Permit:** Is an import permit required?
- Microchip:** Is a 15-digit ISO 11784/11785 microchip required? If your pet's microchip can only be scanned by a specific type of scanner, you are responsible for providing that scanner during travel.
- Vaccinations:** What vaccinations are required, and when should they be administered?
- Rabies Titer Test (FAVN):** Is a rabies titer test required? Plan ahead, as this test can take at least 6 weeks for results.
- Parasite Treatment:** Is internal and/or external parasite treatment required? Must it be administered by a veterinarian?
- Quarantine Arrangements:** Are quarantine accommodations necessary?
- Cargo Requirements:** Must your pet arrive as manifest cargo?

Step 2: Schedule a Visit with Your Veterinarian

Your veterinarian will play a key role in preparing your pet for international travel.

What to Discuss During Your Visit:

- Health Check:** Ensure your pet is healthy and fit for travel.

- Microchip Placement:** Have your pet microchipped before vaccination if required. If your pet already has a microchip, verify whether rabies vaccinations need updating after microchip placement (even if the vaccine is not expired).
- Vaccination Records:** Verify rabies and other vaccination expiration dates. Obtain vaccination certificates and inoculation records.
- Testing and Treatments:** Discuss any required titer tests, parasite treatments, or other tests. Be clear about what your pet needs—your veterinary team relies on you to provide this information since requirements vary by country.

Pet Travel Experts:

If you're feeling overwhelmed, consider consulting a professional pet travel agency such as:

- Paws en Route
- Animal Travel
- Your Dog Butler

Note: These agencies are not associated with our clinic or vetted for quality

Step 3: Book an Appointment with the CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency)

Most pets traveling from Canada to another country will need an export certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian and endorsed by the CFIA.

- **Mandatory Requirement:** This is mandatory and must be obtained before departure. The CFIA cannot issue or endorse certificates if the pet is no longer in Canada.
- **CFIA Resources:** Visit [CFIA Pet Export Information](#) for details on how and where to book an appointment and links to export certificates for various countries.

Step 4: Check Airline Requirements

Airlines have specific rules for pet travel, so confirm these details before booking your flight.

What to Check:

- **Transit Airports:** Avoid challenging transit airports (for example but not necessarily limited to: United Kingdom, Taiwan, Australia, China) for connecting flights or stays if possible.
- **Layovers:** Try to keep layovers under three hours. Keep in mind the temperature and conditions where layovers will occur (e.g. extreme heat or cold).
- **Airline Changes:** Do not change airlines—changing planes is acceptable, but switching airlines may trigger additional requirements.
- **Breed and Sedation Restrictions:** Check airline restrictions for brachycephalic breeds (e.g., Shih Tzu, Bulldogs) and sedation guidelines.

Step 5: Prepare Your Pet's Crate or Carrier

Your pet's crate or carrier must meet airline and international travel standards.

Key Requirements:

- **Carrier:** Must have a waterproof bottom, adequate ventilation, and be secure. Pets must be able to stand up and turn around.
- **Crate (for larger pets or cargo travel):** Must have a waterproof bottom, spring lock, adequate ventilation, and meet IATA requirements.

Acclimation Tips:

- Place familiar items, including something with your scent, in the crate or carrier.
- Encourage your pet to rest and nap in the carrier.
- Leave the door open so your pet can go in and out freely.
- Take short trips with your pet in the carrier.
- Praise your pet for using the crate or carrier.

Sedation Considerations:

Discuss sedation options with your veterinarian if your pet has travel anxiety.

Step 6: Finalize Travel Plans

Before departure, double-check all requirements and ensure you have:

- Completed all necessary paperwork.
- Confirmed and met the airline and destination country requirements.
- Packed essential items for your pet (e.g., food, water, medications, physical copy of vaccination records, etc.)

Helpful Websites

- [Pet Travel](#)
- [Country Pet Import Requirements](#) (not vetted for any changes to official requirements - your destination country's official government website can provide up-to-date information, but this website can provide a helpful baseline on what to expect)
- [CFIA Pet Export Information](#)

By following this checklist and preparing well in advance, you can navigate the complexities of pet travel and ensure a smoother travel experience. Thank you for choosing Yonge Sheppard Animal Hospital to help prepare for your and your pet's journey! Please do not hesitate to reach out for any further assistance.