

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2021-01
August 2, 2021

Subject: Federal Order for Importation of Live Dogs for Resale from Regions Where African Swine Fever Exists or is Reasonably Believed to Exist

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is issuing this Federal Order to prevent the entry or introduction of African swine fever (ASF) into the United States in association with dogs imported for resale. The Federal Order, effective August 16, 2021, requires all dogs imported into the United States for resale from a region in which ASF exists or is reasonably believed to exist to meet the import requirements outlined below. Importers must submit written documentation verifying completion of the requirements, including disposal of animal bedding, microchip identification, and post-entry bath.

A list of regions where ASF exists or is reasonably believed to exist is found here: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions/>.

For more information regarding this Federal Order you may contact APHIS' Staff Veterinary Medical Officer in Live Animal Imports, Dr. Mary Kate Anderson at 301-851-3300 x Option 2, or via email at VS.Live.Animals.Import.Export.@usda.gov.

Rosemary B. Sifford
Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services

Attachment: Federal Order

FEDERAL ORDER

Federal Order For Importation Of Live Dogs for Resale From Regions Where African Swine Fever Exists Or Is Reasonably Believed To Exist

DA-2021-001

August 2, 2021

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is issuing this Federal Order to prevent the entry or introduction of African swine fever (ASF) into the United States through the importation of live dogs for resale purposes from regions where ASF exists or is reasonably believed to exist. A list of all such regions is found here:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions/>.

This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Animal Health Protection Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. § 8301 *et seq.* Section 8303 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the importation or entry of any animal, article, or means of conveyance, or use of any means of conveyance or facility, if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the introduction into or dissemination within the United States of any pest or disease of livestock. This Federal Order only applies to live dogs imported for resale currently regulated under the Animal Welfare Act.

ASF is a highly contagious disease of wild and domestic swine that can spread rapidly in swine populations with extremely high rates of morbidity and mortality. Accordingly, if ASF were introduced into the United States, the impact for the domestic pork industry, which has a gross output of \$23.4 billion annually, could be catastrophic. To forestall these possible dire consequences, APHIS monitors possible pathways of introduction of ASF into the United States. APHIS has determined that dogs imported from ASF-affected countries for resale purposes, along with their bedding, represent such a possible pathway for the introduction of disease. Dogs for resale include any transfer of ownership or control of an imported dog for more than de minimis consideration. Accordingly, this Federal Order imposes the following restrictions on the importation of dogs for resale from regions where ASF exists or is reasonably believed to exist.

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1. The U.S. importer must obtain an APHIS Animal Care (AC) import permit for dog(s) intended for resale, and satisfy all import requirements therein, including age and vaccination requirements. For more information visit the AC web page (https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare/ct_awa_import_live_dogs_regulation).
- 1.2. The dog(s) imported for resale must also meet all of the following APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) import requirements:
 - 1.2.1. The dog(s) and their shipping crate/container must be free of dirt, wood shavings, hay, straw, or any other organic/natural bedding material.
 - 1.2.2. All bedding that accompanies the dog(s) during transit must be properly disposed of at the post-entry point(s) of concentration in a way that prevents the introduction or spread of ASF.

- 1.2.2.1. Disposal methods may include incineration; or disinfecting the bedding with an [APHIS Approved Disinfectant](#), placing the bedding in a leakproof bag, sealing the bag, disinfecting the bag exterior with an [APHIS Approved Disinfectant](#), inserting the disinfected bag into another leakproof bag, sealing that bag, disinfecting the bag exterior with the same disinfectant product, and disposing of the bag in a landfill in accordance with all State and local regulations.
- 1.2.3. Dog(s) must have an International Standards Organization (ISO) compliant microchip implanted, and the microchip number must be verified immediately before the animal is bathed.
 - 1.2.3.1. To certify a microchip as ISO compliant, the microchip must operate at a radio frequency of 134.2 kHz. ISO microchip numbers usually contain 15 digits.
- 1.2.4. Dog(s) must be bathed at the U.S. post-entry point(s) of concentration within 2 calendar days of arrival at the U.S. port of entry, and completion of this requirement must be documented on the VS Dog Import Record.
 - 1.2.4.1. U.S. post-entry point(s) of concentration are the first location where shipments of imported dog(s) are directly moved to following arrival at the U.S. port of entry.

2. CERTIFICATION

- 2.1. Both parts of the VS Dog Import Record must be completed and submitted for each shipment of imported dog(s) intended for resale.
 - 2.1.1. Part 1 of the VS Dog Import Record must include the following information:
 - 2.1.1.1. The name, phone number, email, and address of the importer.
 - 2.1.1.2. The country of origin.
 - 2.1.1.3. The APHIS Animal Care import permit number.
 - 2.1.1.4. The number of dogs shipped.
 - 2.1.1.5. The U.S. port of entry.
 - 2.1.1.6. The date of the dog(s)' arrival in the United States.
 - 2.1.1.7. The address(es) of the first U.S. post-entry point(s) of concentration.
 - 2.1.1.8. Importer certification and signature
 - 2.1.2. Part 2 of the VS Dog Import Record must include the following information:
 - 2.1.2.1. The APHIS Animal Care import permit number.
 - 2.1.2.2. Each dog's name (if applicable), microchip number, age, gender, breed, color/markings, and the date of bath completion.
 - 2.1.2.3. The name, phone number, email, and signature of the importer.
 - 2.1.2.4. The name, phone number, email and signature of the bather(s).

3. ARRIVAL AT THE POST-ENTRY POINT OF CONCENTRATION

- 3.1. Upon arrival at the U.S. post-entry point(s) of concentration, all bedding that accompanied the dog(s) during shipping must be properly disposed of per Section 1.2.2. above.
- 3.2. Each dog must have an ISO compliant microchip implanted, and the individual microchip number must be verified immediately before each animal is bathed.
- 3.3. The dog(s) must be bathed at the U.S. post-entry point(s) of concentration within 2 calendar days following entry into the United States. Completion of this requirement must be documented on the VS Dog Import Record and signed by the importer and bather(s).
- 3.4. The VS Dog Import Record verifying the completion of all VS import requirements for every dog in the shipment must be submitted to APHIS within 2 business days following the dogs' entry into the United States.
- 3.5. VS may require, at its discretion, animal inspection at the post-entry point(s) of concentration in the United States to verify import requirements were met.

Documented non-compliance with any of APHIS' import requirements by an importer could result in the suspension or revocation of import permit issuance or other appropriate enforcement action based on the situation.

For more information regarding this Federal Order you may contact APHIS' Staff Veterinary Medical Officer in Live Animal Imports, Dr. Mary Kate Anderson at 301-851-3300 x Option 2, or via email at VS.Live.Animals.Import.Export@usda.gov.