TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION

Planning to Travel with Your Pet?

If you're planning to travel internationally with your pet, we're happy to help prepare the required veterinary documentation. Travel and export requirements are strict, country-specific, and often unforgiving of small errors — **a misspelled name or an incorrectly-timed vaccine can hold up your paperwork or even get it rejected at the border**.

The two most common causes of delay are incomplete or inaccurate information on file, and rabies vaccine/microchip timing.

Many countries only accept a rabies vaccine if:

- it was given AFTER microchipping,
- and it was boosted ON TIME.

If a rabies vaccine does not satisfy these requirements, the rabies vaccine protocol must be restarted. In this case, it must be given at least 21 days before travel, so the earlier we know, the more room we have to fit that in.

That's why we ask you to submit our Travel Documentation History form no later than **4 weeks before you travel** — and ideally sooner. The checklist below walks through what to arrange, roughly in the order you'll need it.

☐ **1. Research your destination's entry requirements**
Check the CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) website and your destination country's government website for the specific vaccines, blood tests, treatments, and documentation required. Do this as soon as you know you're travelling — requirements vary a lot by country and some take months to satisfy.

☐ **2. Check whether special blood tests are required**
Some countries require a blood test — such as a Rabies FAVN titer test — done well in advance, sometimes up to **6 months** before travel. This is especially true for **Australia and New Zealand**, which require careful, precisely-timed coordination.

☐ **3. Check whether deworming is required**
Some countries require deworming within a specific window before departure. This needs to be administered by a veterinarian, so plan your appointment timing around it.

☐ **4. Compile your pet's rabies vaccine and microchip history**
You'll send this to us in step 9 below. It lets us confirm whether the existing vaccine is valid for travel, or arrange a new one in time if not (remember: at least 21 days before travel). Please include:

- the exact date(s) of vaccination
- the brand of rabies vaccine given
- the serial number of the vaccine

☐ **5. Compile all necessary travel documents**

This includes things like blank CFIA forms or export certificates for the appropriate destination country. **You'll send these to us in step 9 below.** We will create a Fit-to-Fly certificate and a Microchip Attestation certificate.

☐ **6. Compile your travel itinerary and dates**

You'll send this to us in step 9 below. We will need to know your destination country, and your departure **and** arrival dates (arrival matters too, since some destinations require a final health check within a strict window before you land).

☐ **7. Confirm the contact details of the person(s) travelling with your pet**

You'll send us this info in step 9 below — all of this must precisely match your official documents, double-check spelling on everything! We'll need:

- full name, phone number, and address of the person travelling with the pet
- full name, phone number, and address of the person picking up the pet at the destination, including their address in the destination country

If a pet travel agent or export specialist is coordinating travel documentation on your behalf, please also share their contact info too.

☐ **8. Book your CFIA appointment**

In most cases, the CFIA will require a separate appointment (from ours) to certify our documentation. Both appointments usually need to happen within a narrow window before departure, with little to no flexibility — booking early avoids last-minute complications. **Send us the date and the name of the CFIA contact handling your case in step 9 below.**

☐ **9. Submit your Travel Documentation History form — no later than 4 weeks before you travel**

This is where you'll give us everything you've gathered in the steps above. If you send it to us well in advance, it gives us enough time to prepare your documentation and, if needed, arrange a new rabies vaccine before your departure.

☐ **10. If a new rabies vaccine is needed, get it at least 21 days before travel**

We'll let you know as soon as we've reviewed your pet's history whether this applies.

☐ **11. Book your Travel Documentation appointment with us**

This appointment is usually timed within **7–10 days of your arrival** in the destination country, as the travel certificate is only valid for a short period of time after it has been signed. The exact window depends on the destination country. You'll need to bring your pet to this appointment for a final exam to confirm they're fit to fly — we'll sign off on the final copies of all your documentation at this appointment.

☐ **12. Attend your CFIA appointment to get the paperwork certified**

Your pet doesn't need to be there for this one — it's just the final certification of the paperwork. If everything above has been arranged correctly, this step should go smoothly.

Ready to get started? Fill out our Travel Documentation History form, or email us at hello@royalbayvet.ca with any questions.