

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Mexico

**Post:** Mexico

### Traveling With Pets to Mexico

**Report Categories:**

Exporter Guide

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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**Report Highlights:**

Given that Mexico is a popular tourist stop with Americans, this report is designed to outline the key points for obtaining your pet's passport for entering Mexico. Pet owners must present an export health certificate for each pet and the pet is subject to physical inspection.

### **General Information:**

The National Service of Health, Food Safety, and Food Quality (SENASICA) is responsible for conducting import inspections for all pets entering Mexico. These inspections occur at international airports, border crossing points and international sea ports. **Note:** According to Mexican regulations, only dogs and cats can be classified as pets.

The import inspection consists of three steps:

1. Documentation review,
2. Physical inspection,
3. Issuing of the import permit.

### **Documentation review**

For the documentation review at the import inspection entry point, a pet owner must present a health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian for each pet an individual wishes to enter into Mexico. An export health certificate (HC), which may be in English only, issued by a private veterinarian should be prepared on letterhead stationery from the veterinarian certifying that the animal meets all import requirements of Mexico as outlined on the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) web-site ([Mexican import requirements](#)). Mexico recognizes the HC as valid for 10 days from the date it was issued. The HC must include the veterinarian's license number. An original and a photocopy of these documents should be presented to the Mexican official requesting them at the entry point.

Key information that must be included in the letter is:

- Name and address of the exporter and importer,
- Pet identification data (i.e. sex, breed, color, markings, etc...),
- Final destination for the pet,
- Rabies vaccine: must state date received and validity period remaining,
- State if the pet has been treated against internal and external parasites within the past six months and certify the pet is free from external parasites,
- Certify the pet was examined and found clinically healthy prior to export.

### **Physical inspection**

Once the SENASICA inspector has concluded the documentation review, a physical inspection of the pet will take place. The SENASICA inspector will verify the pet identification data (sex, breed, color, markings), determine the health status, and ensure the pet is free from external parasites.

Pets found to carry external parasites must be treated by a local private veterinarian chosen and paid by the pet owner.

### **Issuing of the import permit**

Once it has been determined the correct paperwork has been presented and the pet passes a physical inspection, the SENASICA inspector will issue an import certificate allowing the pet to enter Mexico.

### **Other factors**

The importation of bedding or litter materials into Mexico is prohibited. Likewise, a pet owner can only

arrive in Mexico with a one-day supply of pet food for each pet imported.

**Fees**

SENASICA will not charge a fee for these services when importing one or two pets. However, if an individual wishes to import three or more pets the Mexican Customs Authority (Aduana) requires the shipment must be treated as a commercial shipment and handled by cargo services of the importers' choice. In addition, SENASICA will charge a fee of MX 1,620.00 which must be paid prior to arrival.

**Returning back to the United States**

When returning back to the United States, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requires that a pet owner present a record of rabies vaccination showing that the vaccination has one year of validity remaining for all pets greater than 3 months of age. If the pet is returning back to the United States within 30 days of departure, the pet owner should present a copy of the health certificate used to enter the pet into Mexico.

**For More Information**

**USDA/APHIS:** International Animal Export Regulations for Mexico can be found at the following web-site: [Mexico Summary of Requirements](#). For information about returning back to the United States visit the APHIS web-site: [Importation of Pets and Other Animals Into the United States](#).

**Useful Mexican Web Sites:** Mexico's equivalent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) home page can be found at [www.sagarpa.gob.mx](http://www.sagarpa.gob.mx). The National Service of Health, Food Safety, and Food Quality (SENASICA), an agency of SAGARPA, web-site outlining the import requirements for pets can be found at the following address:

[When Traveling to Mexico with your pet](#)

**FAS/Mexico Web Site:** We are available at <http://www.mexico-usda.com> or visit the FAS headquarters' home page at <http://www.fas.usda.gov> for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.