CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Transporting Livestock into California

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Livestock entering California must meet certain criteria and test requirements prior to entry. These requirements help prevent the introduction or spread of disease into California.

Documentation

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) may require some of the following documents to transport livestock into the state:

- **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)** - A document issued from the state of origin by a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) accredited veterinarian, also known as a health certificate. It is valid for 30 days from the day the animal is inspected.
- **Entry Permit** - A permit obtained prior to shipping animals into California. It is valid for 15 days from the date issued. To obtain an Interstate Livestock Entry Permit, please call the CDFA **Animal Health Branch (AHB) permit line at (916) 900-5052.**
- **Brand Inspection Certificate** - A certificate issued by a brand inspector from the state of origin certifying ownership of cattle, horses, and sheep. A bill of sale and/or truck invoice will be required in lieu of a brand certificate if the state of origin does not have a brand inspection program.
- **Bill of Sale of Consignment** - A form completed by the owner or agent that includes origin, destination and ownership of the livestock.

Effective May 12, 2020, there are new entry requirements for rabbits and hares due to the outbreak of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease.

Rabbits originating from states where RHD has been diagnosed in the prior 12 months now require a CVI and must be inspected within 72 hours prior to shipping to California.

Cattle and Bison - An entry permit and CVI are required. Beef cattle may move on pasture-to-pasture permits.

Donkeys, Horses, Mules, and Zebras - A CVI and proof of a negative equine infectious anemia test (Coggins or ELISA) within 12 months prior to entry are required. Horses may move on a Working Horse Permit instead of a CVI.

- An equine entry document can be completed prior to arriving at a station. It is available at the CDFA Animal Health Branch (AHB) webpage on equine entry requirements.This can expedite the process when inspectors ask for information at the stations.

Sheep and Goats - An entry permit and CVI are required for non-slaughter sheep and goats.

Swine - An entry permit and CVI are required for non-slaughter swine.

Commercial Poultry - A CVI or National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) pullorum-typhoid clean rating or state approved equivalent is required.

Camelids (llamas, alpacas, camels, and vicunas) have no requirements, provided they are free of disease. However, a CVI is recommended.

These requirements are for livestock regulated by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). Other animals may be regulated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Public Health, and/or federal agencies.

Livestock Moving through California

These animals must meet the requirements of their final destination. If unloaded in California, animals may be required to meet California's entry requirements.

Cats and Dogs

Rabies vaccination requirements for cats and dogs are regulated by the **California Department of Public Health at (916) 552-9740.** If traveling by airplane, check with the airline for additional requirements.

- **Cats** - Must be free of contagious disease.
- **Dogs** - All dogs over 4 months old must have a certificate of current rabies vaccination stating the type, manufacturer lot number of the rabies vaccine used, and the date of administration. A CVI is required for dogs changing ownership, but not privately owned dogs.

Wildlife

Movement of wild animals is regulated by the **California Department of Fish and Wildlife at (916) 928-5805** and the **California Department of Public Health at (916) 552-9740**. Contact them for more specific information.

Moving Animals within the United States

Before transporting an animal to another state, contact the State Veterinarian's office in the state of destination.

International Animal Movement (including Mexico and Canada)

When moving animals into or out of the country, please contact the **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) at (916) 854-3950** or visit the USDA website at www.aphis.usda.gov.

For information on shipping non-domestic and restricted species contact:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
1740 North Market Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95834
Telephone: (916) 928-5805
Fax: (916) 429-7586
Website: www.wildlife.ca.gov

For information on interstate and international animal movement, contact:
United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Veterinary Services
10365 Old Placerville Road, Suite 210
Sacramento, CA 95827
Telephone: (916) 854-3950
Toll Free: (877) 741-3690
Website: www.aphis.usda.gov

Animal Health Branch Permit Line:
(916) 900-5052

Animal Health and Food Safety Services
Animal Health Branch
Headquarters - (916) 900-5002
Redding District - (530) 225-2140
Modesto District - (209) 491-9350
Tulare District - (559) 685-3500
Ontario District - (909) 947-4462

For California entry requirements of livestock and other animals, please visit the following:
Information About Livestock and Pet Movement or **Animal Health Entry Requirement Interactive Website**

For more information on the Animal Health Branch, please visit:
www.cdfa.ca.gov/ah