



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 health certificates. They are 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.

General Requirements

Cattle and Bison - An entry permit, CVI, individual official identification, and testing for brucellosis, tuberculosis, and trichomonosis may be required.

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.

Sheep and Goats - An entry permit, CVI, official identification, and a scrapie statement are required for all breeding, feeder, and exhibition animals. Brucellosis testing is required for rams 6 months of age and over.

Swine - An entry permit, CVI, individual official identification, and testing for brucellosis and pseudorabies may be required.

Commercial Poultry - A National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) pullorum-typhoid clean rating or state approved equivalent is required. A CVI and an entry permit may be required.

The following animals have no requirements, provided they are free of disease. However, a CVI is recommended for:

- Llamas, alpacas, camels, and vicunas, and
- Domestic rabbits.

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 Health Services, and/or federal agencies.

If you are transporting livestock into California with an electronic CVI, please print and present a hard copy to the Inspector at the Border Protection Station. This will prevent future follow up by CDFA personnel to verify the authenticity and accuracy of the document.

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 Health Services at (916) 552-9740**. If entering by airplane, check with the airline for additional requirements.

- **Domestic 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.

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



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](#)