



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's New Measures to Protect Canadians from Dog Rabies



Canada 

Overview

Purpose:

- To provide an overview of an upcoming new measure prohibiting the entry of commercial dogs of all ages into Canada from countries at high-risk of canine variant rabies virus (dog rabies)

Outline:

- Background
- About the measure
- Implementation
- Managing non-compliance
- Key points
- Questions for discussion



Background

- Dog rabies is a deadly disease. It kills thousands of people each year around the world.
- Dog rabies is different than the rabies we find in some wildlife in Canada.
- Dog rabies is not in Canada. Importing infected dogs could result in transmission to humans, other mammals, or wildlife. Its introduction would likely cost millions to manage and eradicate.
- In two separate incidents in 2021, infected dogs were imported into Canada which required prophylaxis in over 50 individuals. Owing to these incidents, public health officials asked CFIA to suspend the importation of dogs from countries at high risk for dog rabies.
- Many countries have strict requirements on dog importation to control dog rabies.

About the measure



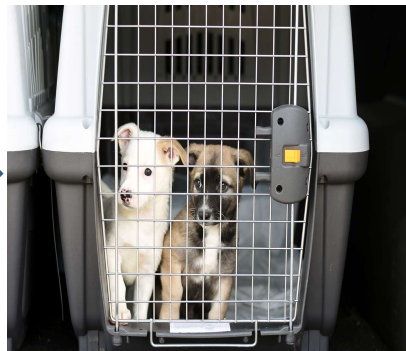
- As of September 28, 2022, commercial dogs of all ages from countries at high-risk for dog rabies **will not be allowed entry into Canada**.
 - See Annex A for the list of [countries at high-risk for dog rabies](#)
- Commercial dogs can include, but are not limited to dogs for resale, adoption, fostering, breeding, show or exhibition, research, and other purposes.
 - See Annex B for definitions
- Commercial dogs arriving in Canada **will be ordered removed** at the importer's expense.

Implementation

Arriving in Canada with dogs from countries at high-risk of dog rabies as of September 28, 2022



Plane Arrives



Dogs are unloaded



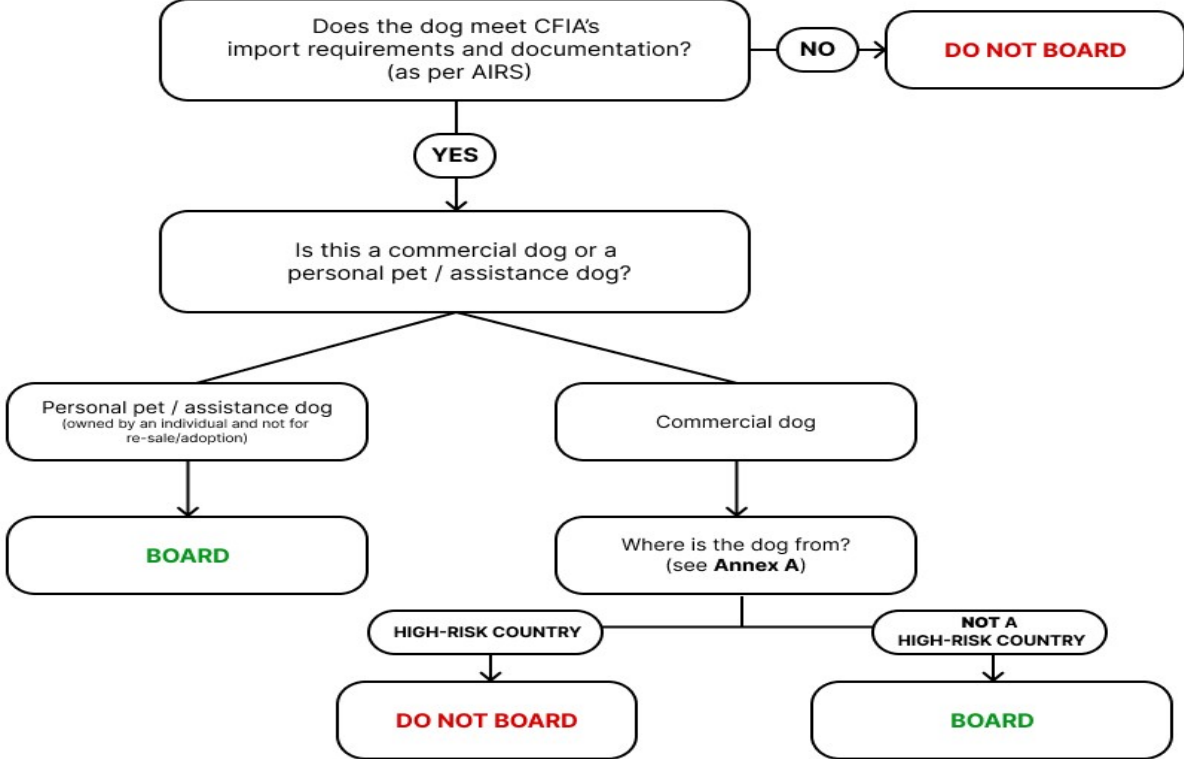
- CBSA determines whether dogs are commercial or personal/assistance
And if commercial:
- CBSA refuses entry and refers to CFIA



CFIA issues order to remove to importer

Importer obligation to arrange removal

Questions to ask BEFORE boarding or loading a dog



Managing non-compliance

- Dogs may arrive by all modes of entry including in-cabin, cargo (commercial and passenger planes) and by private plane.
- We expect compliance to be high but contraventions will likely occur. There may also be cases when extra time is needed to determine admissibility.
- Airports and airlines carrying live dogs for import into Canada must provide appropriate facilities for dogs to be held and cared for in a safe and secure manner preferably within the airport compound. This ensures humane handling of the dogs until arrangements can be made to remove non-complaint dogs from Canada.

Key Points

- The new import measure only applies to **commercial** dogs of all ages from countries at high-risk for dog rabies. Import requirements for personal pet dogs and assistance dogs remain unchanged at this time.
- It is important for air carriers to ensure that dogs boarding any aircraft are in compliance.
- Importers of non-compliant dogs will be ordered to remove the dog from Canada at their expense.
- It is essential that airlines and animal carriers have a plan in place to safely and humanely hold such a dog until it can be removed from Canada.
- There is **no option** for making a non-compliant commercial dog admissible to Canada upon arrival.

Please be ready by September 28!

Questions for discussion

- Are there other steps you can envision taking to limit the number of non-compliant animals boarding flights to Canada?
- Are there any other issues that should be addressed to ensure its successful implementation?
- What can the CFIA do to support your readiness?
- Are we missing anything?

Other feedback welcome!

Annex A: Countries at high-risk for dog rabies

Africa	Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini (Swaziland), Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania (including Zanzibar), Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Western Sahara, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Americas and Caribbean	Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Peru, Surinam, Venezuela
Asia, Middle East and Eastern Europe	Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland only), Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Moldova, Mongolia, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen

Note: This list is reviewed regularly and is subject to change.

Annex B: Definitions

As of September 28, 2022, **commercial** dogs of all ages from [countries at high-risk for dog rabies](#) will not be allowed entry into Canada.

- ***What is a commercial dog ?***

An animal that is intended to be transferred/given to another person (resale or adoption) or intended for purposes such as reproduction, breeding or sale of offspring, showing/exhibition, sale of germplasm, sale of the dog itself, scientific use/research or special training status, regardless of whether a profit is made or a transfer of funds occurs.

- ***What is a personal pet dog ?***

An animal that is intended to live with the owner who is bringing the animal into Canada as a personal pet dog. The said dog is not intended to be transferred or given to another person upon its arrival into Canada and/or is not intended for commercial purposes such as reproduction, breeding or sale of offspring, showing or exhibition, sale of germplasm, sale of the dog itself, scientific use or research or special training status (regardless of whether a profit is made or a transfer of funds occurs).

- ***What is an assistance dog ?***

An animal that is trained and certified by an organization accredited by **Assistance Dogs International** or the **International Guide Dog Federation** to provide a distinct service to the individual to which the dog belongs. It does not include emotional support animals, therapy animals, comfort animals, companionship animals, or service animals in training.

For more information

- <https://inspection.canada.ca/dog-decision>
- <https://inspection.canada.ca/pets>
- <https://inspection.canada.ca/airs>
- If the information you are looking for is not on the website, you can [contact the CFIA online](#) or send an email to information@inspection.gc.ca.