



## **COLOMBIA IMPORT RULES AND REQUIREMENTS**

**Attention:** This information is to be used as general guidelines and may not be updated to meet the current requirements. Before you travel, be sure to contact the appropriate authorities for your destination country.

The first two steps to any successful pet relocation involve the purchase of your pet's travel crate and properly acclimating your pet to its new travel environment. The final 3 pages of this document detail the importance of these steps and provide a guiding hand as to what type of travel crate to purchase and how to go about crate training your pet.

### **Prepare → Initial Crucial Steps to Take Prior to Starting the Process**

- Crate Training** is one of the most crucial steps in this process.
- USDA Accreditation** - the Vet performing the below mentioned tasks must be accredited by the USDA. If they are not, then we will work with you on finding another accredited Veterinarian.
- Date and Time** it is best to always use international date formatting **dd/mm/yyyy (ex: 01/Jan/2010)**, as well as a 24 hour time formatting on all documents.
- Blue Ink** it is best for all original documentation to be filled out and signed in **blue ink**.
- Micro Chip Numbers** must be read from the chip in the animal and not from other paper work.  
**Scan** the chip each time the number needs to be recorded to ensure the correct number is listed.

### **Customs Documentation → In order for us to successfully clear customs we will need the following documents supplied prior to the animal's arrival:**

- Copy of Pet Owner's Passport**
- Copy of Current Rabies Certificate**
- Copy of Pet's Current Vaccination Records**
- Power of Attorney for Customs Clearance**

**Step 1 → Microchip:** Each Pet shall be identified by means of a microchip. No other form of identification is acceptable. The microchip used should comply with ISO Standard 11784 or Annex A to ISO standard 11785- otherwise the pet will need to be sent with it's own scanner attached to the top of the crate.

- Scan** the microchip **BEFORE** placing it in the animal to be sure the chip is working prior to implantation.
- Implant** the ISO Microchip in the animal.
- Record** the microchip number and implantation date





and drop it off at your local FedEx dropoff location. Once the USDA endorses the documents, they will overnight them back to you with an enclosed prepaid return label (also provided by PetRelocation.com).

To reiterate, the following documents need to be sent to your local USDA office for their stamp of approval:

- Microchip Record**
- Rabies Certificate**
- International Health Certificate (Form 7001)**

If you choose to facilitate the USDA endorsement on your own, then USDA locations for each state can be found at [www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/area\\_offices/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices/)

**Step 5 → All Original Documentation Listed Above Must Travel With The Pets:** Your PetRelocation.com agent will provide you with a clearly marked Manila Folder. Place all of the following documents into this folder and simply hand them over to our driver when he/she arrives to pick up your pet.

- Microchip Record** (if not being held by our agent)
- Original Rabies Certificate** (if not being held by our agent)
- Other Current Vaccination Records**
- Original International Health Certificate (Form 7001)** (if not being held by our agent)
- Copy of Pet Owner's Passport**
- Power of Attorney for Customs Clearance**



## **PURCHASING YOUR PET'S TRAVEL CRATE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CRATE TRAINING**



### **□ Purchasing Your Pet's Travel Crate**

Purchase the crate as far in advance as possible or, if you already own a crate, bring it out of storage and re-introduce your pet to it.

The kennel must meet the following requirements:

- **Constructed of hard, sturdy plastic (Wire/Collapsible Kennels are NOT acceptable)**
- **Ventilated on all sides – No Doors on the Top!**
- **Be large enough for the animal to freely sit and stand with its head erect while not touching the ceiling and turn around & lie down in a normal posture.**
- **It must not have a top loading door**

The size of your pet's travel crate - particularly by air is governed by legislation and it is critical to ensure your container is of the correct minimum dimensions and has the necessary and adequate ventilation required. The internal crate measurement has to be greater than the length of your pet, by at least 2 inches - allowing enough space for your pet to stand up, turnaround and lie down with legs out.

The best approach is to bring your pet with you to the pet store. Many of today's modern pet stores will allow you to bring you pet. Take this opportunity to try your pet's crate on for size. This helps to ensure the proper fit the first time, with out unnecessary shipping or returns due to wrong crate sizes.



The following page details the correct way to determine what size travel crate will best suit your pet's needs:



### Good

### Bad

#### A Height

- Crate is tall enough for pet to stand up comfortably
- Pet does not have to duck to see out of the crate.

#### A Height

- Crate is too short for pet to stand up straight.
- Pet is ducking to see out.

#### B Width

- Wide enough for pet to turn around comfortably.

#### B Width

- Not wide enough for pet to turn around comfortably.

#### C Length

- Long enough for pet to lie down comfortably with paws extended.

#### C Length

- Not long enough for pet to lie down comfortably with paws extended.



## □ **Crate Training: The Most Important Step to Help Ensure Pet Comfort**

Getting your pets acclimated to their crate early is by far the single most important thing you can do to help relieve the stress of your pets during their move. Crate Training is a simple process, especially for dogs, and its purpose is to provide 'confinement' for reasons of security, safety, housebreaking, protection, travel or illness.

You may think that putting your pet in a crate is mean or inhumane and might cause your pet to resent you or to be psychologically damaged. However, dogs view the world differently than people. As your dog sees it, the crate is a room of it's very own - a "security blanket" or "comfort zone" if you will. The crate helps to satisfy the "den instinct" inherited from his den-dwelling ancestors and relatives. Your pet will feel secure, not frustrated, once accustomed to its crate.

Puppies are often the easiest to crate train; however many times our customers are relocating adult pets. Older dogs are just as easily trainable, but you must introduce the crate in a slower manner. You cannot just put your dog into the crate and hope they will adjust.

- **Place the crate in the room most used by the family or next to the pet's food. This will allow him to associate with this new piece of 'furniture' and its addition to their personal space.**
- **Remove the door from the crate! Many times, the swinging door is what scares the pet the most. Encourage your pet to enter voluntarily by tossing a treat into the far end, praising them enthusiastically once they enter, then letting them come right back out.**
- **Over a brief period of time, install the door back onto the crate but secure it open so it does not swing freely. Once your pet enters the crate confidently, coax it to lie down and relax, using food, if necessary. Shut the door briefly, while you sit beside the crate or when there are people in the room.**
- **When you feel your dog will remain quietly in the crate, leave him alone for 15 - 30 minutes. If all goes well, you can leave him for longer intervals. While traveling, your pet will be in its crate for a long period of time, so it is best to practice longer and longer intervals.**