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**Guide to International Travel**

International destinations pose exciting prospects for travel enthusiasts. Whether you want to snap a picture of you and your guide dog in front of the Eiffel Tower, roam the busy streets of London, or enjoy a watery affair in Venice, Guiding Eyes for the Blind would like to offer some guidance to prepare ahead of time. Traveling internationally with your guide dog requires significant advanced planning, as both entering another country and returning to the US require medical paperwork for your four-legged explorer.

1: Research your destination country’s entry requirements by visiting:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/us-to-another-country-export>

Please note that requirements for pets and service animals are often the same.

You may also ask a USDA accredited vet for guidance

2: Locate a USDA accredited veterinarian near you. You can use the USDA’s Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS) self-search tool at:

<https://vsapps.aphis.usda.gov/vsps/public/VetSearch.do>

A USDA accredited vet will be able to assist you with the process and medical paperwork for traveling internationally with your guide. At the very least, you may need an International Health Certificate. The process for traveling internationally with your guide dog takes time and may have an associated cost. It is best to give yourself several months between when you book your trip and when you embark.

3: Research your destination country’s access laws for service animals, sometimes referred to as assistance dogs. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other federal laws do not apply outside of the United States. However, some countries may have similar protections.

For assistance, you may contact the country’s embassy. Alternatively, if you are working with a travel agency, they may be able to provide further information.

4: Research your specific airline’s requirements for flying with a service animal. You must complete the Department of Transportation Form for all flights originating in and returning to the US, and the Relief Attestation Form if your flights are more than 8 hours long. Each form can be downloaded at the following links:

<https://www.transportation.gov/individuals/aviation-consumer-protection/service-animals/Air_Transportation_Form>

<https://www.transportation.gov/individuals/aviation-consumer-protection/service-animals/Relief_Form>

You can also visit our Guide to Airline Travel document, located on the Guiding Eyes Graduate Center, at:

<https://www.guidingeyes.org/graduate-center/>

5: Be mindful of additional paperwork for reentering the United States, as per the CDC’s ruling in effect from August 1, 2024. There are different regulations depending on the country you are traveling back from and whether it is considered a High- or low-risk country for Rabies. You can view a list of countries considered high-risk for dog Rabies at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/high-risk-countries.html>

If the country you are coming from is not on the list, the only form you will need to complete is the Animal Importation Form:

<https://cdc-786687.workflowcloud.com/forms/090dc543-7b2f-4538-b2c7-2919d12ecc73>

After you submit the form, a receipt will be sent to the email address provided. This receipt is valid for 6 months from the date of issuance. You will be asked to display it to your airline before boarding and U.S. Customs and Border Protection when the dog arrives in the United States.

If you are coming from a High-Risk country for Rabies, you will also need to obtain a Certification of U.S.-issued Rabies Vaccination form that must be completed by a USDA-accredited veterinarian.

For more information on traveling to another country with your guide dog, visit:

<https://ask.usda.gov/s/article/What-are-the-requirements-for-traveling-overseas-with-a-service-or-emotional-support-animal#:~:text=The%20requirements%20for%20traveling%20overseas%20with%20a%20service%20or%20an,starting%20as%20soon%20as%20possible>!

Or call the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Customer Service Call Center at 1-844-820-2234

Or email CustomerServiceCallCenter@usda.gov

For more information on CDC guidelines to enter the US, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/index.html>

Or call the CDC at 800-232-4636.