Response to CVBC Re: Pet Exports

The requirements for pet dogs/cats to enter different countries varies substantially on the destination; these requirements can range from simple (ex. European Union) to complex (ex. Australia). Similarly, the completion of the export certificate varies from simple (ex. Costa Rica) to complex (ex. European Union); there are detailed instructions on the CFIA website describing how to fill out some of these complex certificates (ex. European Union). Private veterinarians must ensure the appropriate export form for the country of destination is correctly completed and provide the client with supporting documentation of an adequate level of detail for all of the requirements associated with the pet export; the supporting documentation described below is necessary in order to verify that the requirements of the importing country have been met by the private veterinarian. The end goal for all parties involved is to decrease the likelihood of the animal encountering delays, or other complications, at a foreign point of entry.

For all identification, vaccination, treatment and diagnostic tests required by the importing country, the private veterinarian is expected to issue original (signed in ink) supporting documentation of an appropriate level of detail reflecting the requirements that they themselves (or another associate) have fulfilled. Certificates should be issued on clinic letterhead, with the clients information, animals information (including microchip number with associated date scanned/implanted if required), trade name of product/vaccine, manufacturer of product/vaccine, date of administration, date due (if applicable), batch/serial number, batch expiration date of product/vaccine, drug name(s) and drug quantities (mg).

In BC, district offices are sending pet export paperwork back to veterinary clinics for revision due to a number of common mistakes; the following is not meant to be an exhaustive list but serves to highlight commonly encountered issues.

- Incorrectly completed export certificate/completion of an inappropriate certificate for the country of destination (ex. Generic Canadian International Health Certificate filled out for the EU)
- No supporting documentation for required treatments/vaccinations/diagnostic tests or documentation with an inappropriate level of detail (ex. Rabies 1yr given Aug 1 2022)
- Certificate entries made after the private veterinarian signed the certificate or certificates signed before receiving all results (ex. Certificate signed on Nov 1 with a parasite treatment recorded for Nov 5)
- The animal does not meet the requirements of the importing country

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the exporter to ensure that their animal meets the requirements of the importing country by preparing ahead of time to determine, and fulfill according to the relevant timeline, the identification/vaccination/treatment/diagnostics required by the importing country. Information related to these requirements for many countries is on our website; for countries not on our website (ie. without a country specific negotiated export certificate), there is a separate set of additional instructions on our website. Private veterinarians can encourage clients to reach out to their district office for additional clarification if necessary. Private veterinarians need to be familiar with the requirements of the export certificates they sign as they are signing to confirm that the animal has met the requirements.

For More information please contact your local CFIA office.

Travelling with pets, food or plants - Canadian Food Inspection Agency (canada.ca)

BC CFIA District Office Contact Information