

Pets

Last updated April 2007

Index

[Importing Pets \(Dogs, Cats, Birds\) to Brazil](#)
[Exporting Pets \(Dogs, Cats, Birds\) out of Brazil](#)
[Immunizations](#)
[Veterinarians](#)
[Health Concerns](#)
[Miscellaneous](#)
[Pet Supplies](#)
[Dog Trainers](#)
[Kennels](#)

Importing Pets (Dogs, Cats, Birds) to Brazil

There is no quarantine for pets in Brazil.

FROM THE UNITED STATES

First there are requirements for Brazil. Visit the website for the Brazil requirements for the latest information: <http://www.brazilhouston.org/ingles/petplnt.htm>.

You must obtain from a licensed veterinarian:

- An animal's health certificate (certifying that the animal is in good health before boarding and declaring that no contagious disease was verified in the area of origin in the 30 days before boarding)
- A certificate of rabies vaccine given at least 30 days before the trip.

Note: the certificates may be issued by the veterinarian in one single document.

Both your pet's health certificate and the rabies certificate must be endorsed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture 10 days before boarding. Visit their website for more information: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome>. If you live in Houston, there is an office in Austin.

Bring both the endorsed health certificate and the rabies certificate to the Brazilian Consulate for legalization. Contact the consulate ahead of time to inquire about the turnaround time for documentation (explaining your time-sensitive need to get the fastest return possible). For more information on legalization, visit the website <http://www.brazilhouston.org/ingles/vlegaliz.htm>.

Make sure you have all your ducks in a row when making plane reservations. Don't forget to check on holidays (US and Brazil) when making the timeline for getting the documentation ready, as well as what the hours are at the consulate for accepting document requests.

Second there are requirements for the airline they are traveling on. If they are flying Continental, here's their website regarding pets: <http://www.continental.com/web/en-US/content/travel/animals/default.aspx>

If the pet is traveling in the cabin, check with the airline regarding regulations.

If traveling in the baggage hold, you need to check with the airline about space restrictions b/c the airlines limit how many pets can travel below on each flight; when making plane reservations, you will also need to make reservations for your pets. They need to make sure they have the correct size kennel for the pet, and that it's labeled properly and has the necessary accessories (water bowl, food bowl, absorbent towels, etc.) -- the airline web site should have information on this. Make sure the pet is used to the kennel before traveling – for example introduce the kennel to your dog several weeks ahead and eventually make it sleep there at night.

There are also restrictions on when the pets can travel in the baggage hold. They won't accept any pets below if the temperature is too cold or too hot. So talk with the airlines about the probability of weather being an issue.

If traveling in the baggage hold, you should also check with the airline about how to pick the pet up at the airport. When we traveled back in 2004, the dogs were treated as cargo so we had to go to a separate part of the airport to pick them up and of course there was no one there and it took an additional 3 hours to get through all that. It helped that there was someone who was meeting us who spoke Portuguese or else we never would have gotten the dogs out.

FROM EUROPE

Under construction

FROM AUSTRALIA

Under construction

Exporting Pets (Dogs, Cats, Birds) out of Brazil

TO THE UNITED STATES

Under construction

For the latest information, refer to the website <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/animal.htm>.

Dogs and cats are not required to have a general health certificate, but dogs are required to have proof of rabies vaccination at least 30 days prior to entry in the US.

Also, check with restrictions with the airlines regarding traveling with pets. Refer to the "Importing" section for additional information.

TO EUROPE

Under construction

TO AUSTRALIA

Under construction

Immunizations

Dogs should be vaccinated yearly against:

1. Rabies (raiva)
2. Canine distemper (cinomose)
3. Hepatitis (hepatite)
4. Adenovirus (adenovirus tipo 2)
5. Parvovirus (parvovirose)
6. Parainfluenza (parainfluenza)
7. Corona virus (coronavirose)
8. Leptospirosis (leptospirose canina)

Note: A combined vaccination exists for the last 7 vaccinations.

Veterinarians

There are many veterinarians in Macaé; however, not all have extensive training or adequate facilities. The most frequently used are:

AuQmia
Avenida Nossa Senhora da Gloria, 2163 – Cavaleiros
Phone: 2773-3750 / 2765-7017

Under construction

Health Concerns

HEARTWORMS

Heartworms are long, spaghetti-like worms that live in the chamber of the heart obstruct blood flow, and can eventually lead to congestive heart failure and death. A bite from an infected mosquito passes the parasite to the pet; heartworms are more common in dogs than in cats. The disease can be prevented by monthly medication, which is only prescribed after testing indicates the pet is not infected (giving heartworm medication to an already infected dog is dangerous). These pills are available from your vet, but because they are expensive in Brazil you might try to find a source from abroad. The pills must be given monthly here due to the tropical climate and prevalence of mosquitoes. Heartworm pills are also available in a combination form to prevent other types of internal parasites. They are prescribed by weight, so be cautious with their application.

INTESTINAL PARASITES

Intestinal parasites are easily contacted by walking in infected grass and sand or by contact with infected fleas. Most puppies and kittens contract worms soon after their birth. These parasites can be treated easily with the appropriate medication prescribed by your vet. Pet owners should be aware of the signs of worms by checking your pet's anus, droppings, and bedding. The types of worms that you can't see (hookworms or whipworms) can cause anemia, dehydration or nutritional deficiencies. Your vet may analyze a stool sample annually to guarantee your pet is not having problems. In addition to medication, pet owners should remove stools from the yard before the soil is contaminated, and guard against fleas (discussed below).

FLEAS (PULGAS)

Fleas can be a difficult problem to control. Most pet owners have the most success if they are diligent with pet grooming. Shampoos and sprays are available here that contain pesticides to kill fleas - those containing pyrethrins are the best, as they are effective and less toxic than some of the other chemicals. Products containing the synthetic flea-controlling hormone methoprene are also effective but difficult to find in Brazil. Flea collars are also available, but may be irritating to your pet's skin - owners should check the pet's skin under the collar daily. Washing the pet's bedding at least weekly or more frequently will also help eliminate fleas. Some vets recommend mixing a little garlic and brewers yeast into the pet's food - fleas don't like the taste! Avon's Skin So Soft - 1.5 ounces added to a gallon of water and applied after your pet's bath - will also cut down on fleas, although not as effective as chemical flea dips. Fleas do not like the smell, and your pet will have a nice woodland fragrance and a shiny coat! Skin-So-Soft can be added to other insecticides without interfering with their effectiveness.

RINGWORM

This is a contagious, fungal, skin infection that can be contacted pet to pet or from the soil. People can also contact ringworm. It is an itchy skin condition that appears in circular patches. It can be treated with medicated shampoos, creams, and oral medications. However, ringworm is easily confused with bacterial infections of the hair follicles; the vet should make the diagnosis, as the treatment is different.

HEATSTROKE

Dogs and cats are susceptible to heat stroke, especially in this climate. Make sure your pets have access to shade and water. Do not leave pets inside automobiles for any length of time.

FOR CATS ONLY

Hairballs are a common problem in cats. Hairball medications are not available in Brazil. However, pet owners can use 1/4 tsp. of petroleum jelly given once a day for four days. If your cat will not lick it from your finger, apply it to their front paw or under their nose. Another household remedy is butter. Butter is effective and is a natural lubricant. Give your cat 1/2 - 1 tsp. once a day for up to a week. Don't use butter too often, or your cat will turn into a butterball! Feeding your cat tuna packed in oil is also a good way to prevent hairballs.

FOOD/WATER

There are many types of pet food available in Brazil. However, most veterinarians warn that the less famous and cheaper brands do not contain adequate vitamins and minerals to promote good pet health. Veterinarians may prescribe vitamin supplements and calcium for puppies, especially for the large breeds. Pet food may be purchased at the supermarket or at pet food stores, where the selection and prices are generally better. Purchasing food by the kilo from open bags is not advised, as the food can be old or contaminated. Some veterinarians recommend making your own food as a supplement to the kibble. This can be done by cooking a mixture of ground meat, rice, pasta (with eggs), and a bit of cream of chicken soup. An egg or cooked carrots can also be added. Do not feed your pets raw meat of any kind (as they can carry disease) nor chocolate (chocolate contains Theobromine, which is toxic to pets). Some pets will develop flatulence (gas); this can be caused by lack of exercise or kibble, which is high in soybean content. Ingredients are listed in the order or prevalence on labels; if your pet has a problem, switch to a brand that has less percentage of soy product.

Some vets warn not to give tap water to your pets, because it can contain bacteria or excessive chemicals. If your pet seems to be having an ongoing problem with diarrhea or loose stools, switch to bottled water or tap water that has been boiled for at least 12 minutes.

Miscellaneous

Under construction

Pet Supplies

Under construction

Dog Trainers

Under construction

Kennels

Under construction