

Healthy Dog Importation Act (H.R. 1184/S. 502)



The Healthy Dog Importation Act (HDIA) seeks to provide the USDA with additional tools to monitor and safeguard the health of dogs being imported into the U.S. This will ensure that all dogs entering the country are healthy and not at risk of spreading dangerous diseases that could adversely impact animal and public health.



AVMA Supports

Key points



U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates over one million dogs are imported into the U.S. each year.



As the number of imported dogs increases, so does the risk of importing nonnative parasites and zoonotic diseases. The CDC reports 75% of emerging diseases and 60% of infectious diseases are zoonotic.



In addition to rabies, canine influenza, canine distemper, leptospirosis, screwworm, and canine melioidosis, imported dogs can carry African swine fever or foot-and-mouth disease on their fur/bedding which would be devastating to the livestock industry in the event of an outbreak.



Each time a dog enters the country and tests positive for rabies, the CDC estimates the cost can be between \$215,000-\$500,000 per incident for animal and human exposure tracing and treatment.

What is the problem?

Up to 1.245 million dogs are imported into the U.S. each year and most of these dogs are personal pets. For the estimated 113,000 imported from countries that are at a high-risk for rabies transmission, the CDC requires a rabies vaccination certificate and microchip. **But for the 950,000 imported from rabies-free or low-risk countries, the CDC requires no documentation or vaccination.** A visual inspection provided by Customs and Border Protection personnel at the first port of entry is the only screening required for these dogs.

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What does the Healthy Dog Importation Act do?

The bill provides the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) with additional tools to monitor and safeguard the health of dogs being imported into the U.S. to ensure that all dogs entering the country are healthy and not at risk of spreading dangerous diseases that could adversely impact animal and public health.

Specifically:

- Every dog entering the U.S. must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection (health certificate), issued by a licensed veterinarian accredited by a competent veterinary authority recognized by the Secretary.
- Health certificates must be submitted to USDA, which will maintain a centralized, publicly available database. All submitted information will be made available to the Secretaries of Health and Human Services (CDC), Commerce, and Homeland Security (CBP) to promote interagency coordination and facilitate verification upon arrival in the U.S.
- All dogs imported must be permanently identified (microchipped).
- The Secretary may set fees for the issuance of importation permits to offset costs for increased monitoring and oversight.

Support for the Healthy Dog Importation Act:

- National Cattlemen's Beef Association
- National Pork Producers Council
- American Association of Bovine Practitioners
- American Association of Food Safety & Public Health Veterinarians
- American Association of Swine Veterinarians
- American Kennel Club
- American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
- American Pet Products Association
- American Sheep Industry Association
- Animal Health Institute
- Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
- National Animal Interest Alliance
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
- National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians
- International Pet and Animal Transportation Association
- Pet Advocacy Network
- Pet Food Institute
- Pet Industry Distributors Association
- Protect the Harvest
- Sportsmen's Alliance
- World Pet Association

Cosponsor the Healthy Dog Importation Act (H.R. 1184/S. 502)

Sponsors:

- **Rep. Dusty Johnson** (R-SD)
- **Rep. Ann Kuster** (D-NH)
- **Sen. Chuck Grassley** (R-IA)
- **Sen. Tina Smith** (D-MN)

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