

# Rescue Pet Import FAQs

## Are direct-to-owner imports/adoptions allowed?

No. Maine requires all pets imported for rescue/adoption to be imported by a Maine-licensed animal shelter (which includes rescue organizations). If you are looking to import a pet to Maine for adoption, please work with one of the [licensed facilities](#) that can properly import/quarantine/adopt.

## Is an Import Permit required?

The Maine-licensed animal shelter (or rescue organization) that is the importer holds the import permit. If you are a veterinarian completing a CVI, please ensure the importing shelter's name and address are listed as the destination and put the Import Permit number (if not known, use the Facility license #) in the Import Permit section of the CVI.

## What vaccines are required prior to import?

### Dogs:

1. DHLPP (yes, Leptospirosis vaccination is required if the dog is 10 weeks or older)
2. Bordatella
3. Rabies (if 3 months or older)

### Cats:

1. FVRCP
2. Rabies (if 3 months or older)

All vaccines should be administered at least 14 days prior to entry to Maine and all vaccines should be noted on the CVI.

## What testing is required?

Dogs 6 months or older should be tested for Heartworm, Ehrlichia, Lyme disease and Anaplasmosis. **Heartworm positive dogs are not eligible for import.** If the dog is positive for a tickborne disease, the dog may be imported if healthy and exposure rather than infection is suspected. Veterinarian, please note results on the CVI and in the health record and record any follow up testing recommendations in the test record.

## Are mothers with unweaned puppies or kittens eligible for import?

No. All pets must be 56 days of age or older.