



Protecting plants, animals, and natural resources.

Import Alert: New World Screwworm Restrictions for Live Animals Originating from or Transiting Belize

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service sent this bulletin at 01/07/2025 10:20 AM EST

Import Alert: New World Screwworm Restrictions for Live Animals Originating from or Transiting Belize

Issuance Date: January 7, 2025

10:00 AM, U.S. Eastern

Effective Date: January 3, 2025

Effective January 3, 2025, and until further notice, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) is restricting the importation of animal commodities originating from or transiting Belize based on the confirmation of New World screwworm in cattle.

APHIS prohibits the importation of live ruminants, swine, and their germplasm from Belize due to diseases other than New World screwworm.

APHIS will permit the importation of dogs from Belize if accompanied by a health certificate signed by a full-time salaried veterinary official of the region of origin. The certificate must state that the animal has been inspected for screwworm within 5 days prior to shipment to the United States and the animal is either free from screwworm **OR** was found to be infested with screwworm, held in quarantine, and treated until free from screwworm prior to the certificate being issued and the dog being exported to the United States.

Horses originating from or that have resided in Belize within the 60 days immediately preceding export to the United States must complete the established import screwworm protocol. This includes pre-export treatment and examination, as well as treatment, examinations, and a 7- day quarantine in a permanent import quarantine facility upon arrival. Horses transiting Belize will be required to complete screwworm mitigations upon arrival. Please note that horses that have resided in a screwworm-free country for a minimum of 7 days after residing in Belize may request a derogation from the screwworm protocol, if they are then examined by a veterinarian authorized to do so, found free of screwworm, and certification of this examination accompanies the horses upon arrival to the United States. Such requests must be made prior to the exportation of the horse to the United States.

Specific information about live animal import requirements for all species regulated by APHIS VS can be found at: www.aphis.usda.gov/live-animal-import.

A list of regions APHIS recognizes as affected by screwworm can be found on the [USDA APHIS Animal Health Status of Regions](#) website.

For additional information about live animal imports regulated by other Agencies, please check with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, and/or USDA APHIS Animal Care to ensure import requirements of those agencies are met, when applicable.

Please share the following link with others who may be interested in these updates. [Click here to subscribe to the VS Animal Health Stakeholder Registry](#). This link will also allow you to change or cancel your subscriptions.