

**UPDATE: Import Alert: New World Screwworm Restrictions for Live Animals Originating from or Transiting Mexico**

Issuance Date: February 3, 2025  
3:52 PM, U.S. Eastern

Effective Date: January 31, 2025

**NOTE: On November 22, 2024, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) temporarily suspended the importation of live animals originating from or transiting Mexico based on the confirmation of New World screwworm (NWS) in cattle. This import alert provides updated restrictions for live animals originating from or transiting through Mexico.**

Effective January 31, 2025, and until further notice, APHIS is reducing restrictions on the importation of live cattle and bison from Mexico. In addition to meeting all previously established import requirements, imported animals must successfully complete pre-clearance inspection and treatment for screwworm and import through APHIS-approved facilities associated with specific ports of entry. More information on the pre-clearance program, required health documentation, and approved inspection facilities is available at: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/live-animal-import/cattle-bison-germplasm/mexico>, Importation of bovine germplasm, sheep and goats and their germplasm, and swine and their germplasm from Mexico remains prohibited.

APHIS will continue to allow the importation of dogs from Mexico if accompanied by a health certificate signed by a veterinarian trained and approved by the Mexican Competent Authority (SENASICA). 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. SENASICA maintains a list of approved veterinarians online at: <https://www.gob.mx/senasica/documentos/directorio-de-mvra-en-clinicas-y-hospitales-veterinarios?state=published>.

Horses originating from or that have resided in Mexico within the 60 days immediately preceding export to the United States must complete the established import screwworm protocol. The protocol and required health documentation are available at: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/live-animal-import/import-horses-mexico>. 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 Mexico 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 Mexico do not need to complete 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.

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](http://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.