

WE'RE ALL CONNECTED

Pets, livestock, wildlife, and humans all share the same air, water, and environment. They can also share germs with each other.

Whether you're rescuing animals from out of state, or adopting an animal in New Jersey, it's important to ensure the animal arrives healthy and meets New Jersey's animal import requirements. Since you can't be sure of a rescued animal's background or origin, complying with these rules helps protect everyone, including your other pets and family members, your neighbors and their pets, local livestock, and New Jersey's wildlife.

One healthy animal starts a ripple effect that helps all of New Jersey!



LINKS AND CONTACTS

Dogs and Cats



NJ Dept. of Health
Scan code for import FAQ
Questions? Call 609-826-4872

Livestock and Poultry



NJ Dept. of Agriculture
Scan code for import regulations
Questions? Call 609-671-6400

Exotics, Wildlife, and Captive Game



NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
Scan code for permit applications
Questions? Email
NJWildlifePermits@dep.nj.gov

Learn how human, animal,
and environmental health
are interconnected:
OneHealth.nj.gov

RESCUE ONE, PROTECT ALL

Importing healthy animals
into New Jersey -
and why it matters



HITCHHIKER ALERT!

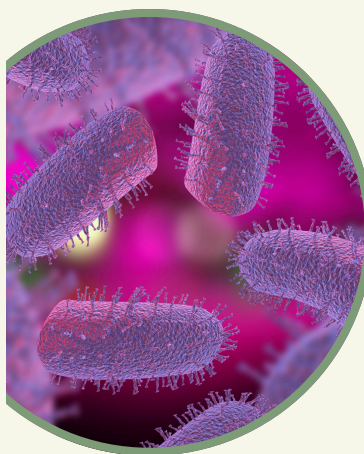


New World Screwworm

This parasite is not normally found in the U.S., but there is an ongoing outbreak in Central and North America. They can infest all warm-blooded animals, including cattle, dogs, and humans. Look for maggots in wounds, umbilicus in neonates, and openings like the nose and eyes. Tell your veterinarian immediately if screwworm is suspected.

Ticks and Disease Vectors

External parasites like ticks and fleas can carry disease-causing pathogens. Imported animals could bring new vectors or pathogens into NJ. For example, the longhorned tick, native to east Asia, was detected in NJ in 2017 and is now widespread in the state. Ensure animals (including their bedding and tack!) are free of ticks and other ectoparasites before entering NJ.

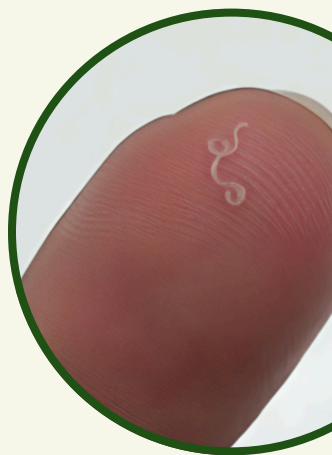


Viruses (e.g., rabies)

Rabies is a severe health threat to all mammals including humans. While it already occurs in NJ, other states have different strains. Avoid introducing new rabies strains to NJ by ensuring imported animals are healthy and up to date on vaccines.

Internal Parasites

Animals brought from outside NJ could introduce new or drug-resistant parasites that harm native animals. For example, a non-native species of eyeworm (*Thelazia*) was first identified in 2020 in a New York dog and is now infesting wild American black bears in Pennsylvania.



Bringing in healthy animals doesn't just benefit them. It protects ALL humans, pets, livestock, and wildlife in New Jersey!

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Importing a domestic companion animal, such as a dog or cat?

Dogs imported into New Jersey are required by law to have a **Health Certificate** completed and issued by a veterinarian licensed in the country or state of origin – N.J.A.C. 8:23-1.1. There is no health certificate requirement for cats, but they can carry parasites and diseases too. All animals should be healthy and free of contagious diseases prior to coming into NJ.

Importing domestic livestock, including horses, goats, poultry, and pigs?

Livestock animals are required by law to have a **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)** – N.J.A.C. 2:3-1.2. Additional species-specific tests may be required, for example, swine must test negative for pseudorabies and brucellosis, unless exempted by the State Veterinarian. Animals imported for slaughter do not require a CVI – but must be processed within 10 days (N.J.A.C. 2:3-1.3) to prevent any disease from spreading to other animals. Call **609-671-6400** before importing to get up-to-date information.

Importing exotic, nongame wildlife, or captive game species?

Captive game animals require an importation permit and CVI – N.J.A.C. 7:25-10. Exotic and nongame animals require a CVI and NJDEP permit to own/sell in NJ – N.J.A.C. 7:25-4.

If coming from outside the US, check for additional requirements:



**USDA APHIS
Animal Import**



**CDC Bringing an
Animal into the US**