



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE  
(860) 713-2506



**ANIMAL IMPORTER INFORMATION**

**Animal importer application and event notices can be found here:**

<http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3767&q=487148>

**Connecticut General Statutes regarding importing animals can be found here:**

[https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap\\_435.htm#sec\\_22-344](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_435.htm#sec_22-344)

*Section (e) paragraphs (1),(2), (3) & (5) are applicable. Section (e) (6) references the standards in this document.*

**Veterinary exam requirements for imported dogs and cats can be found here:**

[https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap\\_435.htm#sec\\_22-344f](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_435.htm#sec_22-344f)

**It may be necessary to register your organization with the Department of Consumer Protection, please contact them directly:**

<http://www.ct.gov/dcp/cwp/view.asp?a=1654&q=459952>

**Lastly, it may be necessary to have USDA inspect vehicles used for transporting animals, please contact them directly:**

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/banner/contactus>

**STANDARD OF CARE OF IMPORTED ANIMALS\***

**Condition of facilities:**

The facilities for housing animals shall be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair to prevent injury to the animals, to contain the animals and restrict the entrance of other animals that may cause harm.

**Floors. Walls. Ceilings:**

Kennel floors and removable resting boards shall be constructed of non-toxic, easily cleaned, water impervious materials. Walls and ceilings shall be painted and kept clean.

**Runs. Inside pens:**

Inside or outside runs shall be provided and shall be not less than thirty-six inches wide for a dog weighing not more that forty-five pounds, forty-eight inches wide for a dog weighing more than forty-five pounds. The minimum length of runs shall be ten feet. Inside pens shall be of the following sizes: For dogs weighing not more than twenty-five pounds, five square feet per dog, for dogs weighing more than twenty-five pounds but not more that forty-five pounds, nine square feet per dog, and for dogs weighing over forty-five pounds, sixteen square feet per dog. Runs should be a minimum height of six feet. Dogs confined in enclosures shall be caged individually except where otherwise indicated for health or welfare reasons. Each enclosure shall be large

enough for the dog or dogs housed therein to turn about freely, to stand erect and to lie down in a natural position.

**Lighting:**

Lighting by either natural or artificial means shall provide a minimum of thirty candle power for at least eight hours per day except where contraindicated for health reasons. A means to control the amount of sunlight entering animal quarters during the warm seasons of the year shall be provided.

**Water facilities:**

Hot and cold water facilities shall be provided.

**Ventilation:**

The kennel space shall be ventilated in such a manner as will provide fresh air at all times.

**Facility temperature:**

The facility temperature shall be maintained at a reasonable and suitable level to promote the health and comfort of the type of animal or animals housed.

**Sanitation:**

- (a) The facility shall be kept sanitary and cleaned a minimum of once daily.
- (b) A disinfectant capable of eliminating canine viruses and bacteria shall be used in washing down runs, pens and interior areas of the facility.
- (c) Such disinfectants shall be used in a manner not harmful to animals or to be used while such animal is occupying a run, pen or enclosure.
- (d) Runs, pens or enclosures shall be cleaned and disinfected before use by another animal.
- (e) Feces and other excreta shall be removed from pens, runs and enclosures a minimum of twice daily.
- (f) Equipment shall be available for the proper storage or disposal of waste material to control vermin, insects and obnoxious odors.

**Segregation of animals:**

Animals shall be segregated for health, welfare or breeding reasons and any vicious animals shall be removed and caged separately.

**Isolation facilities:**

Facilities for isolating animals under quarantine or treatment for communicable diseases shall be in a room or area that is separated from other animal holding facilities.

**Segregation of puppy litters:**

Puppy litters shall be maintained segregated from other litters in separate runs or pens.

**Animal Care:**

- (a) Water shall be provided for dogs at all times. Adult dogs shall be fed at least once per day. Dogs under the age of six (6) months shall be fed at least two (2) times per day.
- (b) Dogs shall be fed the type and quantity of food as directed by the manufacturers' label or as directed by a Connecticut licensed veterinarian.
- (c) Any dog which appears sick or injured shall be examined by a Connecticut licensed veterinarian within twelve hours.
- (d) A water impervious removable resting bed shall be provided for each dog. Not more than one adult dog shall be kept in each indoor run or outdoor run with adjacent indoor pen.
- (e) Dogs are to be exercised twice daily or as directed by a Connecticut licensed veterinarian.

**Food and water containers:**

Galvanized or stainless steel food and water containers shall be provided and kept clean and sanitary at all times. Water and food containers are to be secured in a manner to prevent spillage. Food and water containers shall be washed and disinfected daily and before use by another animal.

**Storage of animal feed:**

Animal feed in original packaging shall be stored at least twelve (12) inches above the floor on clean racks, dollies or other clean surfaces, in such a manner as to protect from splash and other contamination. Unsealed bags of animal feed shall be stored in covered metal or covered heavy duty plastic containers at least twelve (12) inches above the floor on clean racks, dollies or other clean surfaces, in such a manner as to protect from splash and other contamination.

*\*SOURCED FROM DOG POUND REGULATIONS SECTIONS 22-336-13 CGS to 22-336-30 CGS INCLUSIVE AND COMMERCIAL KENNEL REGULATIONS SECTIONS 22-344-1 CGS to 22-344-15CGS INCLUSIVE.*

**Land transport:\*\***

- a. Transport vehicles must be cleaned and sanitized to industry standards prior to transport.
- b. Proper climate control must be maintained—the vehicle must be able to provide heat and or air conditioning to the animal housing areas and there must be sufficient air ventilation.
- c. Animals should be transported in separate enclosures (except in the case of litters) with solid, leak-proof bottoms and adequate bedding. Animals should be able to comfortably stand up, lie down and turn around.
- d. Enclosures cannot be stacked more than two high and that the front of the enclosure must be kept free from being blocked to allow for proper ventilation.
- e. Ensure access to fresh water for every animal at breaks.
- f. At a minimum, stop every 4-6 hours in a safe area to perform a visual check and to clean transport kennels, feed, and water the animals.
- g. Puppies should be fed a small meal or snack every 4-6 hours.
- h. Adult dogs should be walked or exercised on trips longer than 8 hours.
- i. Maximum transport time to a final destination facility should be no more than 12 hours.
- j. All trips should be made with a minimum of (2) drivers and sufficient personnel to appropriately handle and care for all animals.
- k. There must be appropriate Identification on each animal and its carrier during transport.
- l. If an animal has recently been spayed or neutered, there has been other surgery, or it is recuperating from other medical treatment, the animal should have at least 48 hours recovery time before transport. Surgery other than spay/neuter is not recommended prior to transport.

*\*\*SOURCED FROM THE ASPCA AND THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF HUMANE SOCIETIES BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES.*

**NOT MORE THAN 25 Dogs and Cats may be imported to Connecticut at once unless such organization employs the services of a USDA licensed hauler or procures a USDA Hauler license.**