

Import Protocol for
Raptors from Canada by land,
November 2020

The import of raptors, such as falcons, from Canada has increased over the years. Raptors are used in various ways by their owners; i.e. hunting, exhibition, etc. Exposure to wild birds determines if an import permit will be required. The import permit will describe additional import requirements due to that exposure, and special language health certificates are required. Raptor owners should review this import protocol before arriving at U.S. land border ports.

A. General requirements:

1. Raptors maintained in total captivity (no free flight) can be moved across land borders **without obtaining an import permit** but must have a health certificate.
2. Raptors **allowed to hunt (free flight) must obtain an import permit** and a health certificate when using a land, air, or sea border port crossing to the U.S.
3. Importers can obtain an import permit as follows:
 - a. A Veterinary Services (VS) Form 17-129, "Application for Import or in Transit Permit," along with the instructions, can be obtained by writing to or calling the National Import and Export Services at:

[Strategy and Policy](#)
[4700 River Road, Unit 39](#)
[Riverdale, MD 20737-1231](#)
[301-851-3300, Menu Option 2](#)

Or by downloading the form from the APHIS Web site at:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animalproduct-import-information/live-animal-imports/import-live-animals>

Completed applications may be faxed to 301-734-4704, or may be emailed to VS.Live.Animals.Import.Permits@aphis.usda.gov

- b. The applicable processing fee of check, money order, credit card or USDA user fee account must accompany the permit. Current fees can be found at the following web link: [User Fees](#)
 - c. Submissions may be made by mail or fax to the Riverdale office above; 7-10 business days are needed to process applications
 - d. If the importer needs to make changes to a permit after issuance, there is an additional fee (See above User fees web link for fees).
 - e. Permits are valid for 30 days from the date of U.S. arrival, as stated on the permit.
 - f. Shipments made on weekends or holidays are at the permission of the VS inspector and requires additional User fees.
 - g. A compliance fee or refused entry can result with birds arriving with noncompliant documentation.
4. A current veterinary health certificate, issued by a full-time salaried veterinarian of Canada and endorsed by the Canadian competent authority (CFIA), within 30 days of U.S. arrival is required.
- h. The following information must be listed on the health certificate for raptors **used for free flight**:
 - i. Health certificates must state that within a 3 mile radius from where raptors were maintained- the Canadian competent authority (CFIA) or state/provincial/federal animal health authorities did not find any disease of poultry (this includes in any wildlife detections) within the previous 30 days of export.
 - ii. Birds have not had contact with any birds or poultry originating in a control zone established by state/provincial/federal animal health authorities due to outbreaks of Newcastle disease or Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).
 - iii. Birds are vaccinated against Newcastle disease (avian paramyxovirus) at least 21 days prior to export, using vaccines that do not contain any velogenic strains of Newcastle disease virus.
- OR:
- iv. Birds are not vaccinated against Newcastle disease. (Document must denote which applies)
 - iv. There was no evidence of avian communicable disease found in the shipment of birds.
 - v. Newcastle disease did not occur anywhere on the premises during the 90 days preceding the exportation of birds.
 - vi. The birds were placed in new or appropriately sanitized packaging materials at the premises from which the birds were to be exported.

- i. Health certificate language for raptors that **are not used for free flight** must use current health certificate requirements for Commercial Bird imports. Current information can be found here: [Commercial birds from Canada](#)
- 5. Complete VS form, VS 17-29 (Customs Declaration) with the VS port veterinarian upon arrival of the shipment at the U. S. port of entry. Importers are required to contact the port office by phone at least 72 hours prior to arrival. Importers can access the form at this link: [VS Form 17-29](#)

B. Ports where raptors can cross into the U.S. from Canada by land:

Houlton, ME		Highgate Springs, VT
Derby Line, VT		Champlain, NY
Alexandria Bay, NY	Detroit, MI	Niagara Falls, NY (Lewiston Bridge) Port Huron, MI
Pembina, ND		Dunseith, ND
Portal, ND		Raymond, MT
Sweetgrass, MT		Eastport, ID
Oroville, WA		Sumas, WA
Sault Ste. Marie, MI		Baudette, MN

C. Veterinary Port inspections- all ports

The VS inspection will take place at one of the ports listed in this protocol and at U.S. air and seaports. Notify port of choice of approximate time of arrival at least 72 hours in advance. Port phone numbers are: [Here](#) Once an appointment has been made with the VS port office, the importer must call that office if changes to the agreed upon schedule occurs.

D. Quarantine requirements:

There is no quarantine requirement upon arrival in the U.S.

Direct questions about this document to:

Avian Import Specialist Strategy and Policy, Live Animal Imports
 Unit 39
 4700 River Road
 Riverdale, MD 20737-1231
 Telephone: (301) 851-3300 option 2
 Fax: (301) 734-4704

By email: VS.Live.Animal.Import.Export@aphis.usda.gov