

New World Screwworm Entry Requirements

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is New World Screwworm?

New World Screwworm, often called NWS, is a serious pest caused by fly larvae (maggots) that infest wounds or body openings of warm-blooded animals. NWS can affect livestock, horses, poultry, wildlife, and pets. In rare occasions, NWS can also infect humans (visit the California Department of Public Health's [website](#) for additional information).

Why is California adding import requirements?

California is taking action to help prevent New World Screwworm from entering and becoming established in the state. Animals coming from areas where NWS has been detected, or areas under NWS surveillance, may have been exposed before movement.

When do these requirements take effect?

These requirements are effective immediately on June 12, 2026.

Which animals are affected?

The requirements may apply to warm-blooded animals entering California, including:

- Livestock, including cattle, bison, swine, sheep, goats, and camelids
- Equines, including horses, mules, and donkeys
- Domestic poultry, including chickens, turkeys, waterfowl, peacocks, guinea fowl, pigeons, upland gamebirds, and ratites
- Captive cervids
- Companion animals, including dogs, cats, rabbits, pet psittacines, and domestic rodents

Do all animals entering California have these new requirements?

No. These additional requirements depend on where the animal is coming from and the type of animal being moved. However, all animals must still comply with all California entry requirements outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations and the California Code of Regulations.

What are the main requirements for animals from an NWS-infested zone?

All animals originating from an NWS-infested zone must:

- Be inspected within five (5) days prior to arrival in California
- Be accompanied by an electronic Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (eCVI)
 - Include the NWS statement on the eCVI
- Be treated with an effective approved NWS treatment when applicable to the species
- Have required identification and movement information documented
- Have a California entry permit before movement
- Travel with a copy of the required documents when entering California

What are the requirements for livestock and poultry from an NWS-surveillance zone?

Livestock and poultry originating from an NWS-surveillance zone must:

- Be inspected by a USDA-accredited veterinarian within seven (7) days prior to arrival
- Be accompanied by an electronic Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (eCVI)
 - Include the NWS statement on the eCVI
- Have a California entry permit before movement
- Travel with a copy of the required documents when entering California

What are the requirements for dairy calves traveling from an NWS-infested zone or surveillance zone?

Dairy calves travelling from a NWS-infested zone or surveillance zone must:

- A premovement inspection within five (5) days of arrival
- An eCVI that is valid for five (5) days
- Be treated with an effective approved NWS treatment to the species
- Navels of those calves less than three (3) weeks of age treated with an approved product
- Have a California entry permit before movement
- Travel with a copy of the required documents when entering California

What are the requirements for horses and companion animals from a state with an active NWS-infested zone?

Horses and companion animals originating from a state with an active NWS-infested zone must:

- Be inspected by a USDA-accredited veterinarian within seven days prior to arrival
- Be accompanied by an eCVI with the required NWS statement
- Have a California entry permit before movement
- Travel with a copy of the required documents when entering California

What are the requirements for dogs and cats entering California from Mexico?

Dogs and cats entering California from Mexico must be inspected for New World Screwworm within five (5) days prior to entry into the United States.

- They must be accompanied by a veterinary certificate stating that the animal was inspected, found free of NWS infestation, or, if previously infested, was quarantined and treated until free of infestation.
- Dogs must also meet applicable United States Department of Agriculture import requirements. A California Entry Permit is required within five (5) days prior to entry into California.

Are there any exemptions?

Yes. Some exemptions apply.

- Livestock moving directly to slaughter from an NWS-infested zone or NWS-surveillance zone may be exempt from treatment if slaughter occurs within 72 hours of inspection. These animals must move directly to the destination slaughter establishment, and diversion is prohibited.
- Certain poultry movements are exempt, including hatching eggs and chicks less than five (5) days of age when they originate from National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) participating flocks and move under a VS Form 9-3. Shipments of table eggs are also exempt.
- Small mammals (such as rabbits, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs) and exotic birds that are bred, born and continuously raised indoors are exempt from systemic treatment requirements but must still meet inspection, certification, and permit requirements.
 - If deemed appropriate and safe to administer by the accredited veterinarian, proactive treatment may be administered prior to movement.

What documents must travel with the animal?

Animals subject to these requirements must be accompanied by required movement documents while entering California. Documents are to be presented to California Border Protection Station personnel upon request.

This includes:

- An electronic Certificate of Veterinary Inspection(eCVI)
- An NWS Animal Movement Certificate, when applicable
- A California Entry Permit
- Any additional documentation required by the state of origin, federal animal health officials, or CDFA

Are paper Certificates of Veterinary Inspection accepted?

For animals subject to this quarantine, Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection required under these NWS requirements must be submitted **electronically** to CDFA using an approved eCVI system. Animals should still travel with either an electronic or paper copy of required documents for presentation upon request.

How do I get a California Entry Permit?

Email: NWSpermitting@cdfa.ca.gov or evet@cdfa.ca.gov or call: **909-247-8789**

Permit requests should be submitted no later than 48 hours before movement, and preferably at least 72 hours before movement. Some dairy calf movements require permit documentation at least 24 hours before movement, though 72 hours is still preferred.

Are alternate movement documents allowed?

No. Extended Equine Movement Permits, Owner-Shipper Statements, Pasture-to-Pasture Permits, and other alternate movement documents are not accepted for animals subject to these NWS requirements unless specifically authorized by the California State Veterinarian.

What happens when animals arrive in California?

All animals entering California under these requirements must be inspected on arrival at the California destination. Currently, the required inspection can be done by the animal owner/person receiving the animals within 12 hours of arrival in California. If your animal appears sick or shows symptoms of NWS (maggots or foul-smelling wounds) contact your veterinarian immediately for examination and notify CDFA within 24 hours of observation.

What should I do if I see signs of New World Screwworm?

Immediately isolate the animal and report the finding to CDFA within 24 hours.

Call: **866-922-2473**

Email: CDFA.AHB_NWS_info@cdfa.ca.gov

What NWS statement must be included on the eCVI?

“All animals were inspected and found free of evidence of New World Screwworm infestation.”

What is an NWS-infested zone?

An NWS-infested zone is a geographic area where New World Screwworm has been confirmed or where there is a high probability of establishment, as recognized by animal health officials.

What is an NWS-surveillance zone?

An NWS-surveillance zone is an area established to monitor, detect, and control New World Screwworm as part of an outbreak response.

What is an NWS state with an active “infested zone”?

An NWS state with an active infested zone is a state where New World Screwworm has been confirmed in domestic animals or wildlife, or where unsterilized New World Screwworm flies have been detected, as determined by animal health officials.

What does “originating from” mean?

“Originating from” means the animal’s starting location for movement into California. It does not mean temporary stops during transit. However, for animals attending an out-of-state event, the event location is considered the starting location, even if the animal normally lives in California.

Where can I get more information on NWS?

- CDFA New World Screwworm webpage: bit.ly/CDFA_NWS
- USDA New World Screwworm webpage: screwworm.gov
- USDA New World Screwworm detections: bit.ly/USDA_NWSzones

Additional entry requirements help protect California animals, agriculture, and communities.