

## South Africa → Spain

Dog Import Checklist & Quick Guide | TailHarbor | Updated April 2026

### KEY INFORMATION

#### COMPLEX ROUTE: Titer test + 90-day wait required

<b>Preparation Time:</b>	4-6 months
<b>Microchip:</b>	ISO 11784/11785 (must be implanted BEFORE rabies vaccination)
<b>Rabies Vaccination:</b>	Required. Minimum 21 days before travel (primary). Keep boosters current.
<b>Titer Test (FAVN):</b>	REQUIRED. Blood draw 30+ days after vaccination. 90-day wait from draw date.
<b>Documentation:</b>	Animal Health Certificate (AHC) issued max 10 days before arrival. Single-use.
<b>Breed Restrictions:</b>	PPP (Potentially Dangerous Dogs): Pit Bull Terrier, Rottweiler, Dogo Argentino, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Sta...
<b>Cropping/Docking:</b>	Dogs with cropped ears or docked tails may face import restrictions in Spain
<b>Insurance:</b>	Mandatory liability insurance required for ALL dogs in Spain
<b>Registration:</b>	Censo Municipal registration within 30 days of arrival

### USEFUL TIPS

- Start the process as early as possible. Delays with lab results or vet appointments can push back your timeline significantly.
- Book your FAVN titer test at an EU-approved lab early. Processing takes 7-14 days, and if results come back below 0.5 IU/ml, you'll need to re-vaccinate and re-test (resetting the 90-day clock).
- Keep your dog's rabies vaccinations current with no gaps. If there's a lapse, the titer test validity may be lost and you'll need to restart the process.
- Research airline pet policies early. Some airlines have limited cargo spots, especially in summer. Temperature embargoes apply above 30C / below -5C at any transit airport.
- Start crate training weeks before travel. A calm, crate-confident dog will have a much less stressful journey.

### PRE-TRAVEL CHECKLIST

#### EARLY PREPARATION

- Confirm your dog's breed is permitted in Spain
- Research airline pet policies and book cargo/cabin spot
- Purchase IATA-approved travel crate (correct size for your dog)
- Begin crate training

#### MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Microchip implanted (ISO 11784/11785) -- BEFORE vaccination
- Rabies vaccination administered (min. 21 days before travel)
- Blood draw for FAVN titer test (30+ days after vaccination)
- Titer test result received (minimum 0.5 IU/ml)
- 90-day waiting period completed (from blood draw date)

#### DOCUMENTATION

- Animal Health Certificate obtained (max 10 days before arrival)
- All vaccination records compiled
- Titer test certificate included
- Copies of all documents made (2 sets)
- Airline booking confirmation printed

#### TRAVEL DAY

- All original documents in carry-on bag
- Crate labeled with your name, phone, destination, and 'Live Animal'
- Water dish filled and attached inside crate
- Arrive at airport early (3+ hours for international with pet)

#### AFTER ARRIVAL IN SPAIN

- Present documents at Travellers' Point of Entry / Border Control
- Register dog in Censo Municipal within 30 days
- Register with local veterinarian
- Obtain mandatory pet liability insurance