

## United States → Bulgaria

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

### KEY INFORMATION

STANDARD ROUTE: No titer test required

<b>Preparation Time:</b>	4-6 weeks
<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:</b>	Not required (EU-listed/equivalent origin)
<b>Documentation:</b>	Animal Health Certificate (AHC) issued max 10 days before arrival. Single-use.
<b>USDA Endorsement:</b>	USDA APHIS endorsement required on health certificate before departure
<b>Cropping/Docking:</b>	Dogs with cropped ears or docked tails may face import restrictions in Bulgaria
<b>Registration:</b>	TRACES registration within 2 weeks of arrival
<b>Entry Points (BIP):</b>	Sofia Airport (primary), Katolina (Serbia border), Kapitan (Turkey border)

### USEFUL TIPS

- Start the process as early as possible. Delays with lab results or vet appointments can push back your timeline significantly.
- 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.
- USDA APHIS endorsement is required on your health certificate before departure from the US. Allow extra time for this step.
- **IMPORTANT:** Bulgaria requires mandatory quarantine for pets. Plan well in advance and budget for quarantine costs.

### PRE-TRAVEL CHECKLIST

#### EARLY PREPARATION

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

#### MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Microchip implanted (ISO 11784/11785) -- BEFORE vaccination
- Rabies vaccination administered (min. 21 days before travel)

#### DOCUMENTATION

- Animal Health Certificate obtained (max 10 days before arrival)
- USDA APHIS endorsement obtained on health certificate
- All vaccination records compiled
- 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 BULGARIA

- Present documents at Travellers' Point of Entry / Border Control
- Register dog in TRACES within 2 weeks
- Register with local veterinarian
- Obtain pet liability insurance (recommended)