

United States → Italy

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

KEY INFORMATION

STANDARD ROUTE: No titer test required

Preparation Time:	4-6 weeks
Microchip:	ISO 11784/11785 (must be implanted BEFORE rabies vaccination)
Rabies Vaccination:	Required. Minimum 21 days before travel (primary). Keep boosters current.
Titer Test:	Not required (EU-listed/equivalent origin)
Documentation:	Animal Health Certificate (AHC) issued max 10 days before arrival. Single-use.
USDA Endorsement:	USDA APHIS endorsement required on health certificate before departure
Cropping/Docking:	Dogs with cropped ears or docked tails may face import restrictions in Italy
Insurance:	Mandatory liability insurance for dangerous/restricted breeds in Italy
Registration:	Anagrafe Canina registration within 10 days of arrival
Entry Points (BIP):	Rome Fiumicino, Milan Malpensa, Venice Marco Polo, Naples, Bologna
Import Authority:	Ministry of Health (Ministero della Salute)

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.
- Non-EU arrivals into Italy must enter through an approved Border Inspection Post (BIP): Rome Fiumicino, Milan Malpensa, Venice Marco Polo, Naples, Bologna.

PRE-TRAVEL CHECKLIST

EARLY PREPARATION

- Confirm your dog's breed is permitted in Italy
- 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)

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 ITALY

- Present documents at Travellers' Point of Entry / Border Control
- Register dog in Anagrafe Canina within 10 days
- Register with local veterinarian
- Obtain mandatory liability insurance (if dog is classified as dangerous breed)