

New World Screwworm Concerns for Dog Show Exhibitors

Travel Between Mexico and the United States

Key takeaway: Dog show exhibitors traveling to Mexico should obtain the required New World Screwworm inspection certificate from a USDA-accredited veterinarian within five days of arrival, monitor all relevant state movement requirements, and inspect dogs before travel for open wounds, healing wounds, ticks, fly larvae, or other external parasites.

Overview

The recent detection of New World Screwworm (NWS) in parts of the United States has led to new animal movement and travel requirements that may affect dog show exhibitors, professional handlers, breeders, and others who travel with dogs between Mexico and the United States. AKC has advised exhibitors and event participants to monitor updates because requirements may affect interstate transportation and event participation.

What is New World Screwworm?

NWS is a parasitic fly whose larvae infest the living tissue of warm-blooded animals, typically through open wounds. Although the disease most often raises concerns for livestock and wildlife, dogs may be at risk if they have open wounds or contact with infested animals or contaminated areas. Untreated infestations can lead to painful wounds, serious infection, and potentially death.

Travel Impact Summary

Traveler Scenario	Current Concern	Recommended Action
U.S. to Mexico with dogs	Effective August 3, 2026, Mexico requires a New World Screwworm Inspection Certificate for pet dogs entering from the United States.	Secure the certificate from a <u>USDA-accredited veterinarian</u> within five days before arrival.
Border arrival in Mexico	SENASICA (Mexican agency protecting agricultural, aquaculture and livestock health) may inspect dogs for infectious disease signs, ectoparasites, fly larvae, ticks, fresh wounds, or healing wounds.	Travel with dogs in clean carriers and bring supporting veterinary documentation if any skin condition is being treated.
U.S. interstate travel	Many states have adopted NWS-related rules, in addition to routine animal movement requirements.	Check home, transit, and destination state requirements before departure and again before return travel.
Mexico to US with dogs	The US requires a New World Screwworm Inspection Certificate for pet dogs entering from Mexico.	In Mexico, the screwworm freedom certification must be issued by a clinical veterinarian who is specifically trained and authorized to sign on behalf of the official government veterinarian.

AKC events and shows	Exhibitors, handlers, superintendents, and show-giving clubs may face travel or attendance impacts if restrictions change.	Monitor AKC Government Relations, USDA-APHIS, and state agriculture agency updates.
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Impact on Exhibitors Traveling to Mexico

- Dogs must travel with a New World Screwworm Inspection Certificate issued and signed by a USDA-accredited veterinarian.
- The inspection certificate must be completed within five days before arrival in Mexico.
- Dogs should be free of open wounds, healing wounds, ticks, fly larvae, and other external parasites.
- Mexican animal health officials may inspect dogs upon arrival and may require further veterinary evaluation if concerns are identified.

Impact on Return Travel and Interstate Movement

Because animal movement rules may vary by jurisdiction, exhibitors should verify requirements for their home state, the destination state, and any states they will travel through. This applies to both outbound and return travel. Requirements have changed quickly, so exhibitors should rely on official federal, state, and destination-country sources before traveling.

Recommended Exhibitor Checklist

- Schedule a veterinary examination shortly before departure.
- Confirm the veterinarian is USDA-accredited if traveling from the U.S. to Mexico.
- Inspect dogs for wounds, skin irritation, ticks, fly larvae, and other external parasites before leaving.
- Carry all required veterinary and travel documentation in printed and electronic form.
- Allow additional time for border or event-related inspections.
- Review AKC, USDA-APHIS, SENASICA, and state agriculture updates immediately before travel.

Considerations for AKC Events

AKC event competitors, professional handlers, event superintendents, interstate transporters, and show-giving clubs should consider how NWS-related movement requirements could affect participation, logistics, and communication with exhibitors. Show and trial secretaries may wish to monitor requirements closely, particularly for events connected to areas subject to heightened surveillance, quarantines, or animal movement controls.

Conclusion

NWS does not automatically prevent dog show participation or travel between Mexico and the United States, but it has introduced new documentation, inspection, and biosecurity considerations. Exhibitors who plan ahead, obtain required veterinary documentation, keep dogs healthy and parasite-free, and check official requirements before departure are better positioned to avoid travel disruptions.

Sources

- [USDA APHIS: Pet Travel from the United States to Mexico](#)
- [AKC Government Relations: New World Screwworm Updates on Interstate Travel Requirements with Dogs](#)
- [American Veterinary Medical Association: Traveling to and from Mexico with Companion Animals](#)
- [American Veterinary Medical Association: Pet Dogs, Birds Need New Certification to Enter Mexico Starting August 3](#)
- [US Customs and Border Protection](#)