

## TRAVELING WITH YOUR HORSE? REDUCE THE RED TAPE

### Traveling with Your Horse? Reduce the Red Tape

---

By Lydia F. Gray, DVM

*Revised April 2008*

Whether it's a short distance or a long trip, you've got a lot to think about any time you haul your horse. Getting all the right tests done and paperwork filled out may seem like a lot of extra time and money. However, there are some very good reasons why these examinations and documents are required. In this article, you'll find out what you need to travel and why.

#### **What You Need**

There are three broad categories of travel: intrastate, interstate and international (the last is beyond the scope of this article). Depending on your reason for travel and your final destination, you may need the same kind of documentation for intrastate travel (travel within the state of origin) that is required for interstate travel (travel outside the state of origin).

For example, if you are trailering your horse to a show, more than likely the show officials will ask to see a copy of your horse's negative Coggins test, the most commonly used means of finding antibody to the equine infectious anemia (EIA) virus. If you are transporting a horse to an auction, the facility may require that each horse be accompanied by a health certificate, also known as a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). These certificates, which attest that the horse exhibits no obvious signs of disease on the day of inspection and are signed by your veterinarian, are generally good for 30 days.

What changes when you want to travel with your horse outside your own state? Not only is a negative EIA test required for entry into all 50 states, it must be performed at an accredited laboratory (your veterinarian will know which laboratories are accredited). Your veterinarian will also be able to tell you if your destination state requires this test be performed within 12 months of entry, 6 months or, for Wisconsin, within the calendar year (Hawaii requires the test be performed within three months of entry).

Also, with some exceptions that will be pointed out later, all states require that a health certificate accompany horses entering their borders. Some require that the horse's body temperature the day of examination be recorded on the health certificate and a few even require proof of specific vaccinations. While your veterinarian is obligated to submit the health certificate to the origin state veterinarian's office prior to shipment, some states require that an approved copy of the health certificate be submitted to the destination state veterinarian's office after entry.

Within the last few years, some states have begun requiring an additional document, the entry permit. This is a free document that you or your veterinarian can obtain from the

state of your final destination by phone and sometimes by Internet. An entry permit is usually good for the life of your Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, or 30 days. A word of advice for both these documents: include every stop you will be making in the state to avoid any problems.

Horse owners in certain states have an alternative method of complying with interstate health requirements. Two different groups of states have formed reciprocal livestock health arrangements so that people who travel frequently with their horses between these neighboring states do not have to keep getting health certificates every 30 days. *Horse owners in California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington should contact their veterinarian about the Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and Interstate Movement Permit* while horse owners in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Virginia should contact their veterinarian about the Equine Interstate Passport Card.

Finally, even if your horse doesn't have a brand, he may still need to undergo a brand inspection to establish proof of ownership. Contact a state brand inspector through your state department of agriculture or state police if you live in Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah, Washington or South Dakota for this documentation.

### **Why You Need It**

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) accredits veterinarians to carry out these and other services. Local veterinarians work with their state veterinarian and the Area Veterinarian-in-Charge (AVIC) to protect the health and well being of both you and your horse by preventing, controlling and eradicating animal disease. In recent years, state and federal animal regulations have protected the United States equine industry from vesicular stomatitis, screwworm, piroplasmiasis and, most recently, West Nile Encephalitis.

Just because you do not travel internationally or even interstate with your horse doesn't mean you are safe from the effects of foreign (or not-so-foreign) animal diseases. Even if your horse does not come into direct contact with a sick horse that has traveled extensively, once any horse shows signs of a reportable disease for that state, equine transportation from that location and sometimes even from that state may be shut down. Complying with our country's disease prevention requirements helps keep our national equine industry healthy and active.

Finally, complying with animal transport requirements not only serves to protect your horse and the horses he or she comes into contact with, it also lays an excellent paper trail should there be any question of your horse's disease status. Veterinary examinations, negative EIA test results, body temperature and vaccination records are all in one place for easy retrieval.

(CVI = Certificate of Veterinary Inspection; aka 'health certificate')

The following checklist is based on the most common "paperwork" errors made on CVIs. These errors are violations of your accreditation standards and can cause certificates to be **Disapproved** by the state of destination. They can also cause problems for your client while the animal is in transit or when it arrives.

Please make sure your paperwork is complete and accurate.

Is all the information on the certificate legible?

Is the certificate signed? (No rubber stamp signatures.)

Is the certificate properly dated? (Use date of inspection or exam.)

Are both clinic name and mailing address provided and legible?

Is the **full mailing address** for shipper/consignor included?

Is the **full mailing address** for receiver/consignee included?

Is purpose of the shipment indicated? (Breeding, feeding, training, exhibition, new owner, moving, visit & return, etc.)

Were state-of-destination's current import requirements confirmed? (Contact [state of destination](#) for details of their import requirements.)

Was import permit obtained, if required?

Are number, age, breed, and sex of animal(s) in the shipment indicated?

Is brucellosis vaccination status indicated for female cattle?  
Whether vaccination is required or not, **vaccination status** must be provided.

Are rabies vaccination **details** indicated for dogs and cats?  
[Manufacturer & serial number of vaccine, date of vaccination, date for revaccination.]

Is rabies vaccination **current**? Many states require ANNUAL vaccination regardless of vaccine used.

If testing was required, you must indicate: Date sample was taken, individual ID of tested animals, and test **results**. Name and location of the lab which performed the test(s).

#### Interstate shipping

**Interstate shipments- Call the state of destination for requirements for animals going to other states within the United States.** This state phone list is provided as a courtesy to Oregon veterinarians and veterinary clinics. Phone numbers may change without notice. Please note that some states may have an automated telephone service and if you cannot make contact with the state permit clerk, it is then recommended that you visit the state's website.

Alabama	334-240-7255	Montana	406-444-2976
Alaska	907-375-8215	Nebraska	402-471-2351
Arizona	602-542-4293	Nevada	775-688-1180
Arkansas	501-907-2400	New Hampshire	603-271-2404
California	916-651-6278	New Jersey- all other (dog & cat)	609-292-3965 609-588-3121
Colorado	303-239-4161	New Mexico After Hours	505-841-6161 505-263-6406
Connecticut	860-713-2504	New York	518-457-3971
Delaware	302-739-4811	North Carolina- other (dog & cat)	919-733-7601 919-707-5900
Florida	850-415-0900	North Dakota	701-328-2655
Georgia	404-656-3667	Ohio	614-728-6220
Hawaii - (dog & cat)	808-483-7151	Oklahoma	405-522-6141
Hawaii - (all other)	808-483-7111	Oregon	503-986-4679
Idaho	208-332-8540	Pennsylvania	717-783-5301
Illinois	217-782-4944	Rhode Island	401-222-2781
Indiana	317-227-0316 Cattle 317-227-0311 Swine	South Carolina	803-788-2260
Iowa	515-281-5547	South Dakota	605-773-3321
Kansas	785-296-2326	Tennessee	615-837-5120
Kentucky	502-564-3956	Texas-other (dog & cat)	512-719-0777 512-458-7255
Louisiana	225-925-3980	Utah	801-538-7164
Maine	207-287-3701	Vermont	802-828-2421
Maryland	410-841-5810	Virginia	804-786-2483
Massachusetts	617-626-1797	Washington	360-902-1878
Michigan	517-373-1077	West Virginia	304-558-2214
Minnesota	651-296-2942	Wisconsin	608-224-4879
Mississippi	601-359-1170	Wyoming	307-777-7515
Missouri	573-751-3377		