

Frequently Asked Questions: New World Screwworm Import Requirements for Companion Animals

What is the effective date of this requirement?

April 16, 2026 until rescinded by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health.

What does a quarantine look like under the NWS import requirements?

A supervised quarantine requires the owner or responsible organization to maintain direct oversight of the animal(s) for the duration of the quarantine period. For animals imported by a rescue, the animal must be housed in an enclosed kennel and must not have contact with other animals until the quarantine has been officially released.

For foster-based rescue organizations, the animal must be strictly separated from all other animals within the household until the quarantine period is complete and released by the Board.

Are quarantined animals inspected by the Board?

Routine inspection of the premises is not required unless circumstances warrant further evaluation. The quarantine period may be extended if all required documentation is not received prior to the animal's arrival into Minnesota.

Who is responsible for paying for associated costs of quarantine?

All costs associated with the care, housing, and management of the animal during the quarantine period are the responsibility of the owner or the importing rescue organization.

What happens if a person or rescue is unaware of the Board's requirement and imports animals without following it?

Minnesota Statute §35.05 grants the Board legal authority to quarantine any domestic animal infected with, or exposed to, a contagious or infectious disease when necessary to protect the health of the state's domestic animal population. Failure to comply or cooperate with the Board's directives is a violation of state law and may result in a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 and/or a misdemeanor charge.

Can a group of animals imported together be quarantined together?

Animals imported together can intermingle, but they shouldn't have any interaction with other animals in the facility/foster home during their quarantine.

What qualifies as strict separation of animals in a foster home setting?

In a foster home setting, "strict separation" refers to the complete prevention of direct physical contact between animals. This includes ensuring that animals do not have any opportunity to touch, including through barriers such as fencing.

Although animals may be housed in separate areas within the same facility/home, shared entrances and exits are permitted and a separate yard area is not needed, if protocols are in place to prevent any direct interaction.

For outdoor housing, such as kennel environments, animals must be maintained in a manner that always prevents physical contact. This includes ensuring that fencing or other barriers are constructed and managed so that animals cannot come into contact.

How long must an animal be quarantined per this requirement?

The minimum period is five days. If all requirements are met before arrival, the release will be issued on the fifth day. If all requirements are not met, the animal will be quarantined for a minimum of 10 days. The period may be longer depending on when all requirements are completed. Quarantine will only be released once all requirements are met.

What if animals are inspected in another state or by a federal agency before entering Minnesota?

Prior inspection in another state and interstate movement of the animal do not change Minnesota's requirements. The CDC, USDA ports of entry, and many states have different entry requirements.

What if dogs already received preventative medication within its prescribed timeframe? Do they need a double dose within the five-day period?

If the animals are dosed within the manufacturer's recommended timeframe, and that timeframe is still in effect upon arrival into Minnesota, you will not need to "re-dose" the animal. However, pictures of medications being administered and in original packaging must be taken and submitted to the Board. If the animals are not documented before departure from Mexico, they will be quarantined for a minimum of 10 days, and they will need an exam and a signed statement from a licensed veterinarian that states they have been examined and are free of screwworm. The Board has a form that will be sent to the veterinarian to complete and submit. The person importing the animal is responsible for producing a photo showing the medication being administered.

When should travel documents and proof of preventative treatment be sent to the Board?

All documents should be sent in to the Board within five days of departure from Mexico. This includes: the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), Rabies Certificate (or pet passport), Screwworm Freedom Certificate, and pictures of medication in original packaging and being administered.

How do these requirements apply to people traveling with personal pets?

The same requirements apply to all dogs and cats that travel from Mexico, or any other New World Screwworm endemic area, to Minnesota.

Do the requirements differ for nonprofits or privately owned animals?

The requirements are the same for everyone including individuals, businesses, and nonprofits.

If an animal already has a veterinary visit in Mexico and receives all appropriate care to meet the requirements, does the clinic need to provide additional information to the Board to be accepted?

If all required documentation is submitted and approved by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health prior to arrival, including a valid CVI, rabies certificate, Screwworm Freedom Certificate, and photographic documentation of approved screwworm treatment, no additional veterinary examination is required following quarantine.

If required documentation is not received or is incomplete prior to arrival, the animals will be placed under a minimum 10-day quarantine, and a veterinary examination will be required prior to release. In such cases, the Board will provide the required form that must be completed by a licensed veterinarian and submitted to the Board for review.

Is a veterinarian in Mexico or the rescue/importer responsible for sending all the necessary documentation to the Board of Animal Health?

All veterinarians in Mexico are required to submit copies of export health certificates to their appropriate governing authority. Submission of documentation to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health is the responsibility of the owner, importer, or designated transporter. All required documents must be obtained prior to departure, and sufficient time should be allowed to submit copies electronically (emailed photographs or scans) to pet.travel.bah@state.mn.us for review.

How long is a quarantine if an animal arrives in Minnesota with incomplete paperwork and who communicates it to the rescue/importer?

The Board of Animal Health will communicate directly with the rescue responsible for the dogs.

If required documentation is not complete at the time of arrival, the animal(s) shall be placed under quarantine for a minimum of 10 days. The total duration of quarantine will be determined based on the timely completion and submission of all required documentation. The owner, importer, or responsible party must provide the physical address where quarantine will occur, along with copies of the official health certificate, rabies vaccination certificate, and New World Screwworm Freedom Certificate. In addition, photographic documentation of the application and approval of an EPA- or FDA-approved New World Screwworm treatment product must be submitted.

A veterinary examination conducted by a licensed veterinarian will be required prior to release from quarantine. The Minnesota Board of Animal Health will provide a required compliance form, which must be completed by the examining veterinarian and submitted to the Board for review and approval prior to release.

Can veterinary clinics in Mexico send the documentation to the Board of Animal Health?

Veterinary clinics are not responsible for submitting required import documentation to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health. While a clinic may assist with documenting New World Screwworm treatment and transmitting records, this is not an obligation of the clinic and should not be assumed. The responsibility for ensuring all required documentation is complete and submitted to the Board rests solely with the owner, importer, or designated transporter. The method of submission is at the discretion of the importer, provided all materials are received by the Board in an acceptable format.

If deficiencies in the documentation are identified upon arrival, it must be corrected promptly. For example, if a rabies vaccination certificate is missing, it must be submitted immediately. If New World Screwworm treatment has not been performed, the treatment must be administered using an approved product. All such requirements, in addition to a veterinary examination and completion of required documentation by a licensed veterinarian, must be satisfied prior to release from quarantine.

What if animals are imported with an urgent need for veterinary care? Can they move out of quarantine to visit a veterinarian?

The importer should communicate any known needs for veterinary care to the Board of Animal Health as soon as possible. The animals may be moved during the quarantine period only with prior authorization from the Minnesota Board of Animal Health. A permit must be issued by the Board before any movements occur.

The owner, importer, or responsible party must provide the receiving veterinarian's contact information to the Board. This information is required so that the Board may communicate directly with the veterinarian regarding the animal(s) and to ensure compliance with all quarantine requirements and protocols at the receiving facility.

When does the quarantine period start for imported animals?

The quarantine period begins upon arrival at the final destination in Minnesota, not at the point of entry into the United States.

Does releasing the quarantine take a long time?

We understand that there may be concerns regarding potential delays or uncertainty during this process. Please be assured Board staff review all submitted documentation, provide guidance on quarantine requirements, and coordinate with our field staff as necessary. Email access is monitored regularly during business hours.

The required quarantine period will be determined based on the documentation and information provided. All submissions will be reviewed in a timely manner, and efforts will be made to maintain clear and consistent communication throughout the process.

Do importing rescues with foster homes need to report each individual home site of individual animals?

The importing rescue must provide the Minnesota Board of Animal Health with:

- The name and physical address of each location where a dog or cat will be quarantined, whether it is a rescue facility or foster home.
- Preferably, a contact email for each location.

The Board may coordinate communication directly with foster providers or allow the rescue to distribute required materials, but location reporting to the Board is mandatory.

All quarantine locations may be inspected by the Board of Animal Health at its discretion to ensure compliance with quarantine requirements.

How likely are quarantine inspections?

The Board prioritizes clear communication and coordination with animal owners, importers, and caretakers. When an inspection or site visit is deemed necessary, efforts are made to contact the party responsible in advance to arrange a mutually appropriate time. The intent is to support compliance and ensure animal health and welfare, rather than to create unnecessary disruption.

Consideration may be given to the type of operation involved, such as a licensed kennel versus a private foster home, as regulatory requirements can vary depending on the circumstances. However, the Board reserves the right to conduct unannounced inspections if there are concerns about the animal's health, welfare, or other violations of state statute.

Why does the Board have this requirement when there haven't been reported cases in Minnesota?

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health implements import restrictions proactively in response to identified risks of foreign animal diseases or parasites. These measures are consistent with broader federal actions like the USDA's livestock import restrictions from Mexico due to NWS.

These requirements are intended to:

- Mitigate the risk of introduction and spread of foreign animal diseases.
- Allow for controlled and safe importation of companion animals.
- Demonstrate to federal authorities that appropriate screening and containment measures are in place.

Restrictions remain in effect until the identified risk is determined to have passed.

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