



TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS For HORSES

The following is a summary of normal travel requirements for equines. Any disease outbreak that occurs may put in place additional travel requirements as pertains to your health papers.

BRAND INSPECTIONS

Montana brand law requires animals transported across county and state lines to meet Brand Enforcement laws. Additional brand law information or to find a district inspector near you, please call the Helena office at (406) 444-2045. Brand inspections provide proof only of legal transportation rights for the equid designated on each inspection, it does not make any reference to health status in any way. There are 3 types of brand inspections available for traveling with horses.

1. Annual Brand Inspection:
 - a. Valid for 12 months from date of issue; negated if animal is sold or dies within that 12 month period.
 - b. Valid for travel across *county* lines only.
 - c. Current cost is \$3.00.
 - d. Local and district brand inspectors may issue.

2. Lifetime Brand Inspection:
 - a. Valid for entire time horse is owned by same owner, negated if animal is sold or dies.
 - b. Valid for travel across county and state lines both; may be even recognized for travel within other states providing that state recognizes lifetime brand inspections (Montana recognizes lifetime brand inspections issued in other states).
 - c. Current cost is \$10.00.
 - d. District brand inspector only is authorized to issue.

3. One-Way Trip Permit:
 - a. Valid for only a few days from date of issue.
 - b. Valid for travel specifically to the listed destination on brand inspection certificate (same certificate as an annual inspection, but is marked as trip permit for traveling out of state).
 - c. Current cost is \$3.00.
 - d. Local and district brand inspectors may issue.

EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA

Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) testing, may also be referred to as “Coggins,” is a specific blood test to determine if an equid is “positive” for EIA. This is a blood borne disease that is incurable and may be transmitted from infected animals to uninfected animals. Once an animal has been determined as test positive for EIA, there is no cure!

This test does not make any reference to quality of health in any other aspect or for any other disease nor provide legal transportation authority.

Montana EIA requirements for importing or leaving and returning are:

1. With a 30-day certificate, EIA tests are valid for 12 months.
2. With a Six-Month Passport (certificate for frequent travelers in the states of MT, ID, WA, OR, NV, & CA) then the EIA test is valid for 6 months.

***** When traveling out of state, please make sure your veterinarian has verified with the state of destination what the EIA test acceptance is (ie: 12 or 6 months).

HEALTH CERTIFICATES (Certificates of Veterinary Inspection)

Travel out of state and into Canada requires certification from an accredited deputy state veterinarian. The “health certificate” must be issued in accordance to the state of destination requirements. Travel into Canada or any other foreign country is listed on an International Certificate that must be signed by the Federal Veterinarian in the Helena regional office prior to departure.

Interstate travel is listed on a "health certificate" that is valid for travel in the United States and is pre-authorized by the Montana State Veterinarian. Always have your veterinarian check state of destination requirements prior to leaving, including EIA allowance (ie. 12 mo or 6 mo) This certificate provides proof that an accredited veterinarian examined the animal(s) listed on the certificate and verified that the shipment was free of any contagious, communicable diseases and is in good shape to travel.

The following types of certificates are available from your local veterinarian:

1. 30-Day Certificate
 - a. Valid for travel to any state in the US.
 - b. Valid for 30 days from the date the animals are inspected.
 - (1) Certificate *may* be issued up to 10 days after animal inspection, certificate validity does not extend past 30 days from date of animal examination in this instance.
 - c. Valid specifically for the destination city, state listed on certificate.
 - d. Allows a 12-month EIA test for re-entry into Montana.
 - e. A lifetime brand inspection or one-way trip permit is allowed.
 - f. For return to Montana, a Montana re-entry permit is required (obtained by veterinarian issuing certificate)

2. Six-Month Passport
 - a. Valid for travel into MT, ID, NV, CA, OR, and WA *only*. No other states recognize this certificate.
 - b. Available for frequent travelers.
 - (1) Not for use with change of ownership transactions
 - (2) Not for use for breeding animal movement (ie. Mare to stallion owners for duration & returning)
 - c. Valid for 6 months from the date the blood is drawn for the EIA test.
 - d. Requires a lifetime brand inspection.
 - e. A Montana re-entry permit is required.

3. International Certificates
 - a. Obtained from your veterinarian from the local Helena area Federal Veterinarian's office.
 - b. Requires a lifetime brand inspection.
 - c. Requires a Montana re-entry permit number.
 - d. Must be signed by a Federal Veterinarian in the Helena area office *prior* to departure date; plan enough in advance to have this certificate back through the mail from their office to not impede travel plans.

IMPORT PERMITS

Montana Animal Health laws require an import number on all equids imported or returning to Montana. The veterinarian, or someone from the clinic, should call our import permit telephone number at (406) 444-2976 to obtain a permit. There are a couple of permit options for you and your veterinarian. There is no charge for any of these permits and the only one requiring a paper application is the Annual Equine Permit.

1. 10 Day Permit
 - a. Obtained by the veterinarian or someone from the clinic and written on the health papers.
 - b. Information exchanged over telephone, no application required.
 - c. Re-entry or entry must be accomplished in the 10 days from the date the permit is issued.
 - ** *An extension may be granted if owner travel exceeds normal 10 day time frame. Extension expires when that specific set of health papers expires.*

2. Six Month Permit
 - a. Obtained by the veterinarian or someone from the clinic and written on the health papers.
 - b. Available only for the Six-Month Horse Passport.
 - c. Expires when the health papers expire.
 - d. No extension is available.
 - e. **REQUIRES A LIFETIME BRAND INSPECTION**

3. Annual Equine Permit
 - a. Application available from the Department of Livestock, Animal Health Division by calling (406) 444-2976.
 - b. Valid for any certificate including 30-day US, 6-Month Passport and International certificates.
 - c. Expires December 31st, of each calendar year.
 - d. No additional permit required to be obtained by veterinarian or clinic, or owner.
 - e. Must carry the permit letter for each horse with other paperwork at all times.

- f. Horse age is determined by a January 1st birth date (ie. A horse foaled in May of 1990 would turn 12 years old officially as of January 1, 2002.)
- g. REQUIRES A LIFETIME BRAND INSPECTION

PHONE NUMBERS

Still have additional questions? Here are some resource phone numbers to contact:

Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, Helena (Federal Vet's Office)	406-449-5407
Bureau of Land Management, Butte District Office (US Dept of Agriculture)	406-494-5059
Dept of Livestock, Helena	
Animal Health Division (permits, import laws)	406-444-2976 or 2043
Brand Enforcement Division (transport laws)	406-444-2045

Always check the state of destination requirements when traveling out of state. Each state has their own set of laws pertaining to import requirements, there is not a standard "Animal Health" law that is uniform between all states. Please be aware that when traveling you are not only governed by Montana re-entry requirements and state of destination requirements, but may also fall under laws in other states if you off-load your horse(s) for any reason in that state. Check with all states that you intend to overnight stop in also.

If you have questions on your paperwork, visit with your veterinarian to have them discuss what each paper represents or your brand inspector to explain the specific rules for the type of brand inspection you were issued. Be sure to travel with all pertinent paperwork at all times and be prepared to present it to a Livestock official should that be necessary.