

Check List for PET travel from USA to St. Maarten, N. A.

1. Check the airline website and call the airline regarding pet travel policies and rules before you purchase your ticket.

Every airline has different rules, policies, procedures, required documentation, and fees regarding pet travel. Fly with an airline that will get you and your pet safely to St. Maarten. Generally speaking the airlines require:

1. Health Certificate issued by a veterinarian and with in 14 days of travel to SXM
2. Arrange Pet ticket or reservation through the airline. You must call the airline to reserve your pet's ticket (not arranged online). Most airlines limit the number of pets per plane to 3-4 pets. Get your pet reservation early.
3. Pay for the pet ticket/reservation at the airline's counter the day you depart for SXM, and save your receipt for security and boarding.

Tell the airline exactly what type of animal you have, its size, number of animals, and your departure and arrival cities. Ask the airline exactly what you need to bring on your departure date. For example:

1. List of required health records. (Health Certificate, or rabies records)
2. Cost of the pet's ticket
3. Procedures to bring pet in cabin or in the checked pet area
4. Exact requirements for the pet's carrier. (Size, ventilation, identification, hard/soft sided)
5. Rules on pet sedation during travel.

Most airlines consider the pet carrier in the cabin as your "carry on luggage." This does prevent you from bringing a small suitcase as your "carry on luggage." Most airlines only allow one carry on luggage and one personal item. Examples of a personal item are a purse or laptop bag. Check with the airline regarding the amount of luggage allowed when traveling with a pet.

2. See your veterinarian in the US prior to leaving the US.

Call or make an appointment to see your veterinarian regarding travel with your pet. Many veterinarians assist clients with airline pet travel, and have good information for you if you've never had the experience of airline travel with your pet. Set a appointment shortly before departing the US to obtain a Health Certificate, copies of other health documents (rabies shot records/certificate), or needed medications (if your pet needs meds). Bring with you the list of required documentation from the airline and from the SXM government to this last appointment.

3. Check requirements for pets entering SXM.

This information is difficult to obtain. Check with the St. Maarten Tourism Board or the through the Netherlands Antilles via US State Department. Please see

attachment sent from the Netherlands Antilles government June 2005 to a current AUC student. **Additionally, be sure that your pet has a microchip and that you know the microchip number to insure entry onto Sint Maarten.**

4. **Check USA govt. website for bringing your pet back to the USA from SXM.**
The US government does have clearly stated rules on pets entering the USA. Be sure you bring with you to St. Maarten documentation that will allow you to bring your pet back to the US.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/animal.htm>

5. **SXM veterinarian information**
There are a number of veterinarians in St. Maarten.

Dr. Christopher DeWitt
Animal Hospital of the Netherlands Antilles
Unit 4 & 5 Crowne Plaza
Union Road, Cole Bay St. Maarten, N.A.
Tel: 599 544-4111
Fax: 599 544-4113
Email: ahna@megatropic.com

Dr. Mike
Sint Maarten Veterinary Clinic
Executive Commercial Center
Cay Hill
Telephone: 599-542-0111
Fax: 599-442-2107
Emergency 599-557-1838

Additional Information

AUC students will find that the St. Maarten immigration is very lax with animals entering the island. Most students have found that immigration does not notice you have a pet with you. Students will also find that if they notify to the St. Maarten immigration officer that they have an animal, pet documentation is RARELY reviewed by the immigration officer. St. Maarten is not “known” as a country that has strict pet rules like the USA or European countries where possible quarantine is a result of incomplete pet documentation. You’ll learn that the culture is very laid back here in St. Maarten including this area of pet travel- no need to worry! However, students bringing pets should be very mindful of the rules set by the airline and US officials when returning to the US.

St. Maarten does not have an Animal Control/Services department or local animal shelter in the local government. Thus, there are not strict ordinances as we have in most US cities (leash laws, pet registration, tags etc.).

The veterinarian in Cole Bay has provided an extremely high level of service to AUC students in the past. Dr. DeWitt’s clinic is extremely professional, affordable, and attentive to their clients. Dr. DeWitt also has a pet adoption program through his clinic. The clinic also can help students prepare their pet for the complicated process of travel to Europe if they choose to attend UK/Ireland clinicals.

Check with your landlord regarding their pet policies. Students with pets typically find plenty of housing that will accommodate you and your pet. Pets are not allowed in on campus housing.

There is not a large selection of pet food and pet products in the St. Maarten grocery stores. Be prepared to change pet food if you feed your pet anything other than a generic brand. When it comes to pet food, stores occasionally change their inventory. Also be prepared to possibly change pet food brands while you are here on island.

When you go through TSA airport security (and SXM airport security when leaving the island) be aware that you will be asked to take your pet out of its carrier, and walk with your pet through the metal detector. If your pet is frightened by being at the

airport understand that your pet might not be happy about being momentarily taken out of its carrier.

Lastly, if cost is an issue, call several veterinarians in your area for the costs of Health Certificates (in the USA before you leave). I have paid as little at \$8.00 and as much as \$37.00 for the same certificate that only takes minutes for the veterinarian to fill out.

If you have any questions feel free to email me!

Kristakeith130@hotmail.com

The following is a copy of a document sent to me from a St. Maarten government official regarding my request for pet travel rules or laws.

Requirements for the admission of pets in the Netherlands Antilles

This information will be dealing exclusively with governmental requirements regarding the admission of pets to the country.

Tourist travelling to the Netherlands Antilles are increasingly inquiring about the possibility to take their pets with them on holidays

For the requirements regarding travel and accommodations you are referred to the airline and/or travel agent of your choice.

Prior to travelling you should check with the Tourist Bureau of the island territory they intend to visit (either directly or through their travel agent) if the hotel you made reservations at allows pets.

For a dog/cat to be admitted into the Netherlands Antilles documents should be submitted showing that the dog/cat has had its rabies shots at least one month prior to departure and has also been examined for heartworms with a negative result.

Moreover, upon arrival a general certificate of good health for your dog/cat signed by either a certified veterinarian or by the Department of Agriculture (Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry) should be submitted. Afore-mentioned certificate should not be older than fourteen days.

As puppies are not allowed to have rabies shots this requirement is not applicable for puppies, a general certificate of good health will in this case suffice.

Since the requirements for the admission of other pets do vary periodically the respective Veterinary agencies have reached an understanding with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) that all amendments to these requirements will be centrally up-dated on a regular basis at afore-mentioned Department, which will keep all USDA-offices apprised of these amendments.

Consequently people requiring information regarding farm animals (e.g. cattle, pigs, horses, poultry) are referred to the USDA.

For information on requirements regarding exotic animals you are referred to the Veterinary Department in Curaçao.

Curaçao, facsimile: 011 599 9 461 1014

e-mail: vetdcur@curinfo.an