

September 30, 2025

Laura Stokes

RE: CDC Docket No. CDC-2023-0051 – Control of Communicable Diseases.

Foreign Quarantine: Importation of Dogs and Cats – Final Rule (“the Ruling”)

Dear Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Esteemed Elected Officials. Animal Welfare Officials and concerned citizens of The USA and Internationally.

I am writing to you about the above ruling issued by The CDC which came into effect on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

I would like to adopt a puppy from The Turks and Caicos Islands. As a US Citizen I should be allowed to bring my new family member home. This puppy has been microchipped, received their rabies vaccine at 12 weeks of age and now 28 days later is fully vaccinated.

Can you please explain to me the rationale of having to wait a further two months, by which time, at six months of age this dog will be too big to be able to fly on a commercial flight.

I am very concerned about the impact that this ruling will have on legitimate rescue organizations such as Potcake Place and the dogs that they work tirelessly to save in DMRVV Low-Risk or DMRVV-free countries which are effectively rabies free Countries (“Rabies free”)

The need to protect The United States from DMRVV is well stated in the ruling and I understand the intention and that some breeders may be bad actors who may have falsified documents. As far as I can see from this ruling this has been from High-Risk Countries.

I know that Potcake Place is an incredibly reputable dog rescue in The Turks and Caicos Islands, and I am very familiar with the steps they take to ensure that the dogs are in good health and adopted to appropriate families. We are wanting to be one of those families.

This rule is a devastating blow to Potcake Place and other reputable rescues. All this does is force charities to hold fully vaccinated adoptable dogs for longer, causing them incredible hardships.

I agree and support that the dog be vaccinated and microchipped by a licensed Veterinarian but I do not see how this new ruling is “protecting the health and safety of people and animals” When a dog over six months of age can be imported without proof of a rabies vaccine but a 4 month old dog who had a rabies vaccine at 3 months of age cannot.

I am writing to ask that the CDC institute a temporary suspension to the six (6) months rule for dogs from DMRVV low-Risk and DMRVV-free Countries such as The Turks and Caicos Islands.

This is not unprecedented given that The CDC issued a temporary suspension for high-risk Countries and that is apparently the framework and basis upon which these new rules are being implemented.

We implore you to reconsider the blanket banning of dogs under six months of age into The United States.

People do not just rescue dogs, Dogs rescue people too.

Your consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated by dog lovers everywhere.

Yours Faithfully.

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