INFORMATIONAL GUIDE

P E T S

U S A G R h e i n l a n d - P f a l z

Welcome to Germany!

Bringing your furry, scaled, or feathered family member with you is possible, but requires careful planning and adherence to specific regulations. This guide will help you navigate the process. Please note: Regulations can change, so always verify information with official sources.

Important First Step: Breed Restrictions

Germany, and specifically the state of Rheinland-Pfalz, has breed restrictions. It is crucial to understand these restrictions before you begin your PCS process. Failure to comply can result in confiscation of your pet, at your expense.

The following breeds are generally restricted or require specific permits and adherence to strict regulations:

- Pit Bull Terrier (American Pit Bull Terrier)
- American Staffordshire Terrier
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- Bull Terrier
- American Bulldog
- Dogo Argentino
- Cane Corso
- Perro de Presa Canario
- Rottweiler
- Mastiff (and related breeds like the Mastino Napoletano and Mastin Espanol)

Considerations for Restricted Breeds:

- Permitting: Owners of restricted breeds must obtain a permit (Wesenheitsprüfung) from the local Ordnungsamt (Public Order Office). This involves a temperament test and proof of responsible ownership.
- Liability Insurance: Owners are required to have liability insurance covering potential damages caused by their dog.
- Leash and Muzzle Requirements: Restricted breeds are generally required to be leashed and muzzled in public.
- Training: Proof of successful completion of a dog training course may be required.

It is highly recommended to contact the local Ordnungsamt in your assigned duty station within Rheinland-Pfalz before bringing a potentially restricted breed to Germany. They can provide the most up-to-date information and specific requirements for your area.

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Required Documents & Preparations

Gathering the correct paperwork is essential. Start early! This list is a starting point; consult your veterinarian and transportation office for personalized guidance.

- Microchip: All pets must have an ISO-compliant 15-digit microchip. If your pet's current microchip isn't ISO-compliant, you'll need to have it replaced before traveling. Document the implant date of both chips if re-chipping.
- Rabies Vaccination: A current rabies vaccination is required, and must be administered after microchip implantation to be valid.
- Health Certificate (DD Form 2209): This must be completed by an accredited veterinarian after a thorough examination. It needs to be endorsed by your local APHIS Veterinary Services Office or USDA-accredited military veterinarian, and a bilingual EU-specific health certificate must also be completed. (DD Form 2209 alone is not sufficient for EU entry, but is for returning to the US).
- Identification: Proof of ownership and immunization records are recommended.
- Other: Be prepared for potential additional documentation, such as border clearances and kennel labels.

Travel Options:

- Pet Limit: There is a limit of two pets documented on your PCS orders. More than two requires an exception to policy.
- Patriot Express: Pet space is limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact your Transportation Office (TO) as early as possible.
- Commercial Flights: Airlines like Lufthansa, American, Delta, Alaska, and Hawaii Cargo offer pet transport. Prices vary significantly. Check with your airline for up to date details.

Important Resources:

Military OneSource Pet Shipping Guidelines

USDA APHIS Pet Travel Website

USAG Rheinland-Pfalz Veterinary Treatment Facility

Baumholder Military Community Veterinary Treatment Facility

You must register your pet with the on-post Vet Clinic within 14 days of arrival, even if you use off-post veterinary care.