

FAQ – Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)

Certificates of Veterinary Inspection are currently required by the Division of Animal Health (DATCP-DAH) for animals being imported into the state, and in some instances moved or shown within the state. This document is primarily based on the current requirements for Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI).

AB250 (SB208) would require ‘that a certificate of veterinary inspection from a licensed veterinarian stating that the veterinarian has examined the dog and found that it has no infectious or contagious diseases as of the date of the examination.’ be completed for all dogs sold. Any further detail on the requirement for the CVI to accompany a dog sold by a licensed facility would be established via the rule writing process. This bill establishes a required advisory committee to assist in the creation of rules that will further define aspects of the legislation, such as CVIs. As this bill is not yet law, rules and therefore the exact CVI content, are impossible to speculate on.

When necessary for explanation related to the possible requirements under the Smith / Kreitlow bills AB 250 and SB 208, notations are in italics. Please remember that language of bills change as they move through the legislative process.

If the bills pass, The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and an Advisory Panel will determine the contents of the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection required under the bills.

1. What is a Veterinary Certificate of Inspection (CVI)?

Existing DATCP-DAH CVI forms are required to verify the general health of animals (including dogs) that are being shipped interstate (movement across state lines). Some animals are required to have a CVI for instate movements. Some shows and exhibitions require a CVI to participate

There are currently four (4) CVI forms being provided by DATCP-DAH:

- Large animal Interstate CVI- used primarily for large animals (such as cows) being shipped out of WI.
- Equine CVI – used primarily for equine shipped out of Wisconsin and for farm-raised deer moved within Wisconsin.
- Small Animal CVI – used primarily for small animals (such as dogs and cats) being shipped out of WI.
- Courtesy Form for Wisconsin Intrastate movement CVI – used when there is a health testing or veterinary inspection requirement that must be met for a sale, show, or exhibition.

All CVI forms identify specific animals that are being moved, has places for any test results required to be recorded and concludes with the following statement “I certify as a veterinarian, accredited and certified by the State of Wisconsin, that the described animal(s) have been inspected by me and that they are not showing any signs of infectious, contagious and/or communicable disease (except where noted). The vaccinations and results of tests are as indicated on this certificate. No warranty is made or implied.”

2. What is typically included in a CVI?

See the attached example of the form currently used for INTERSTATE movement of small animals.

- cosigner's name (or owner)
- consignee (buyer)
- animal description
- vaccination record, including rabies vaccination
- statement of health based on a brief exam
- veterinarian's signature
- (other items – exceptions)

3. How do I obtain a CVI for a dog I am selling (or adopting out)?

CVIs are official forms that can only be purchased from the state by Wisconsin accredited and certified veterinarians.

4. Can any vet issue a CVI?

No, only Wisconsin accredited and certified veterinarians, but they must examine the animal and use the official certificate form.

5. Where do I get CVI forms?

See #3

6. Is there a fee for the form?

Yes, current interstate movement forms are \$5.60, intrastate courtesy forms are \$0.60.

The veterinarian purchases the forms from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection. The veterinarian pays this fee. Currently courtesy forms (similar to those we expect will be put in place under the Smith Krietlow Bills AB250 and SB 208) cost 60 cents each. You will need to negotiate a fee with the veterinarian for the cost of examining the animal and completing the form.

Please remember that IF you are spaying and neutering animals prior to adoption, your veterinarian would perform a brief physical exam prior to putting the dog under anesthesia. You can ask the vet to complete the CVI as part of the animal's record at that time.

7. What happens to the completed form?

See the last line on the attached copy / sample of the current Small Animal INTERSTATE form.

- One copy goes to the Wisconsin State Veterinarian.
- One copy goes to the State Veterinarian in the State where the animal is going.
- One copy stays with the animal.
- One copy is retained by the veterinarian who did the exam and issued the CVI.

This is the same for the Large Animal and Equine CVIs. However, the intrastate Courtesy CVI form requires one copy to accompany the shipment and one to be retained by the issuing veterinarian.

8. Does a copy of the form have to go to the State of Wisconsin?

Copies of the interstate movement CVIs do. The current intrastate courtesy form does not require a copy to go to the state veterinarian.

A CVI as created under this legislation may require a different distribution. This will be determined during the rule development process.

9. Can a CVI be issued if the dog does not have a rabies vaccination?

Yes, if the dog is too young to be vaccinated for rabies. That fact would be noted on the CVI.

Under current Wisconsin law, if you have had an animal over the age of five months in your possession for more than 30 days, you are required to have that dog vaccinated for rabies.

10. If a dog has a medical condition, how is that handled on the CVI?

Medical conditions found by the veterinarian during the inspection should be noted on the form.

However, unless other conditions are specifically stated in the CVI requirements, the CVI documents that the animal is not showing any signs of infectious, contagious, or communicable disease (except where noted), at the time of the inspection.

11. What can I expect a vet exam to obtain a CVI to cost?

If you include it as part of the required paperwork completed for a spay or neuter, your vet may not charge for it.

You will need to work with your vet to determinate a cost.

We have seen vets offer brief physical exams and verification of vaccinations for shelter animals for as little as \$5.00.

12. If I am transferring a dog to another person, as in a shelter-to-shelter or shelter to breed rescue group, is a CVI required?

If the shelter is out-of-state and the receiving state requires a CVI for the animal to enter the state, then, yes, a CVI must be completed. This is true now.

Regarding the Smith / Krietlow bill language, only the SALE (or adoption for a fee) requires a CVI. A transfer from a shelter to another shelter or shelter to rescue is not a sale and therefore, a CVI would not be required. Please bear in mind that language in bills change.

13. Can a CVI be issued as part of a pre-surgical exam when being spayed or neutered?

Yes.

14. If I am selling or adopting a dog to an out-of-state owner and sending the dog out of Wisconsin, is a CVI still required?

The bill, as currently written requires a CVI to be completed for any sale. So yes, in its current form a CVI would be required whether the dog being sold, or adopted out, is staying in state or going out of state.

In fact, most, if not all states require a CVI for importation of dogs now. The attached CVI is a sample of the CVI form currently completed before a dog is moved out of Wisconsin to another state.

15. If I am bringing a dog into Wisconsin from another state is a CVI required from a vet in the state where the dog is coming from?

Yes. This is a current requirement.

16. Does a CVI serve as a guarantee that the dog is healthy?

No. The CVI is NOT a guarantee. It is clearly stated on the document that “No warranty is made or implied.”

Current CVI used for dogs simply verify that the dog(s) has been recently seen by a veterinarian and is not showing signs of infectious, contagious and/or communicable disease (except where noted) at the time of exam. If a rabies vaccination is required by law for the animal that would also be included on the CVI.

It serves as a record for the dog's vaccinations and records any exceptions to general well-being the vet observes during the exam.

It does NOT guarantee against genetic defects or diseases that may not be obvious, like early stage heartworm disease.

17. Does a CVI identify genetic defects?

This is not required. However, there is nothing barring a veterinarian from noting known conditions.

18. Is a blood test required to complete a CVI?

Not unless test results for a specific disease are required by the rules governing the CVI content.

19. How long is a CVI valid?

CVIs that are currently issued in compliance with DATCP-DAH existing regulations and/or USDA regulations are valid for 30 days after the examination. CVIs must be written within 10 days of an examination, with few exceptions.

20. What happens when the CVI expires?

Movement based on the CVI would no longer be permitted. The CVI is no longer valid.

21. Does Wisconsin currently use any type of CVI's for dogs?

Yes, Wisconsin requires dogs being brought into Wisconsin to have a CVI completed prior to movement into the state.

The attached form is a sample of the form used when an animal is leaving Wisconsin and moving to a state where a CVI is required to import a dog into that state. All interstate CVIs have similar content.

22. Do all vaccinations need to be current for a CVI to be issued?

CVIs only require what the law requires. Currently, the only requirement on CVI for a dog being imported into Wisconsin is a current rabies vaccination for dogs 5 months and older.

For the well being of the dog, vaccinations should always be current. Our goal should be to provide dogs that have been protected by vaccination as recommended by a veterinarian.

You may choose to have all vaccines administered listed on the CVI for efficiency so that it can also serve as a record of vaccinations for adopters/purchasers.

Remember, if you are moving a dog to another state, the rules in the receiving state may have more requirements.

Any additional CVI content under AB250 (SB208) will be determined via the rule process. Without any additional requirements implemented during the rule making process a dog being sold, or adopted out would be required to be rabies vaccinated in accordance with existing law, and if sexually intact and sold at auction test negative for brucellosis (AB 250 requirement).

23. Does every dog sold in Wisconsin need a CVI?

Currently, no. Dogs brought into Wisconsin need a CVI and dogs shipped out of state are required to be accompanied by a CVI for importation into that state, unless stated otherwise by the state of destination.

NOTE: If the Smith/Kreitlow bills pass with a threshold of requiring licenses of facilities selling more than 25 dogs per year, then only facilities that must be licensed will need to supply CVI's with the dogs they sell (or adopt for a fee).

24. If there is an error or omission on the CVI, can the seller or the vet be sued by the buyer?

It is a person's right to sue and there is nothing in this legislation or existing law that bars this action. Unfortunately, we live in a litigious society. However, if paper work is completed correctly and accurately there would be no grounds for a case.

Shelters are reminded to include "hold harmless" language in their release and adoption documents help avoid lawsuits.

Additional Comments by DATCP – June 30, 2009

"At this time, AB 250 is still a work in progress and the final statutory language is not known. No work has begun on any rulemaking drafts which will implement any future statutory language. Information supplied by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is based upon current statutory and rule requirements and already existing Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs). The Department only intends that the information give guidance on the general operation of CVIs in Wisconsin."

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This document is presented for informational and educational purposes only by Wisconsin Federated Humane Societies, Inc and the Wisconsin Puppy Mill Project, Inc. It is not guaranteed to apply, in whole or in part, to the upcoming proposed legislation AB250 or SB208. Bills before the State Legislature can be amended. Should the bills pass, the content of the CVI form will be determined by a Rule Making Committee and subject to legislative approval.

This document has been reviewed by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and by the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association (WVMA)