



CALL TO ACTION FOR NAIA MEMBERS

This is a time-sensitive action alert!

Dear NAIA Supporters:

If it feels like we've been talking to you about the Healthy Dog Importation Act forever ... it's probably because we have! Thanks for sticking with us. When a campaign lingers on for this long (Thanks COVID!) the urgency can fade and in its place a kind of numbness can set in. This letter is intended to put the urgency back in the campaign and *it is specifically aimed at getting you to take action*. The battle is won by those who show up! This is a mountain that needs to be moved - simply reading, understanding and agreeing won't get the job done. PLEASE read to the end of this and follow the clear and simple steps that will influence your congressional representatives and will enable you to count yourself as a part of the force that made it happen.

We started reporting on international dog relocation programs back in 1999 when the first trickle of dogs from foreign countries started making their way into US shelters and rescues. Since then, the trickle has turned into a torrent and there is no end in sight. When trying to predict the future of this thriving enterprise, keep in mind that the world dog population is estimated at 900 million and that this unregulated dog import business is incredibly lucrative.

Although there are many good reasons to oppose international dog trafficking, our bill, the bipartisan Healthy Dog Importation Act, H.R. 1184 and S. 502 is aimed at protecting the health and safety of the American public, our pets and livestock. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over a million dogs annually are imported into the US, bringing with them whatever pathogens they are carrying: rabies, leishmaniasis, canine brucellosis, leptospirosis, canine influenza, new strains of distemper, parvo, and a host of other horrific diseases and parasites, some zoonotic and fatal.

Why take action now? Our long-term objective is to have the Healthy Dog Importation Act included in the base text of the 2023 Farm Bill. The Farm Bill is a multi-year, mega-appropriations bill that is up for reauthorization this year and covers everything from

agricultural commodities and trade to nutrition assistance programs. Stakeholders for all these programs are likewise vying to have their priorities included in this must-pass bill. As you might expect, groups that benefit from unregulated dog importation are also weighing in *against* our bill.

With your help and the help of our partners, the AKC, the AVMA, and our excellent government relations firm in Washington DC, the Russell Group, DC, we have awakened Congress to the issue. Now is the time to elevate awareness to action. National organizations like our key partners and the groups listed below who have publicly supported the Healthy Dog Importation Act are incredibly important but lawmakers need to hear from their own constituents to make the Healthy Dog Importation Act a priority for them.

Now is the time to write to your US Representative and Senators and tell them how critically important this bill is to you, their constituent back home. Ask them to support the Healthy Dog Importation Act and to consider becoming a co-sponsor.

Only You can Make the Healthy Dog Importation Act A priority for your congress member

Here are some talking points and background information you can use in your outreach:

- Animal and public health risks associated with dogs carrying contagious diseases and arriving without health records or vaccinations compelled Congress to provide the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) with some oversight of dog imports in the 2008 Farm Bill.
 - Unfortunately, fifteen years after Congress provided that authority, USDA data on dog importation shows that the Department oversees the health and welfare of less than two percent of the 1 million+ dogs imported into the U.S. annually.
 - In the absence of responsible health oversight and screenings, imported dogs have brought in diseases such as canine influenza, brucellosis, leptospirosis and rabies into our communities, threatening both animal and public health. Livestock groups are also becoming increasingly concerned that unscreened dog imports can carry highly contagious pathogens like African Swine Fever on their fur and in their bedding.
 - The increasing number of rabies instances led the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to temporarily ban dogs imported from over 100 countries. While we are encouraged by the CDC's attention to this serious matter, their authority is narrowly limited to rabies and does not cover the other diseases that we've seen introduced into the U.S.

- To address these risks, I urge you to cosponsor the bipartisan and bicameral Healthy Dog Importation Act, which was introduced earlier this year by Representatives Dusty Johnson (R-SD) and Ann Kuster (D-NH) and Senators Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Tina Smith (D-MN).

The Healthy Dog Importation Act would:

- Ensure that all dogs imported into the U.S. are permanently identified and are accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) issued by a licensed veterinarian accredited by a competent authority recognized by the Secretary of Agriculture. The CVI, or health certificate, must certify that the dog has received all required vaccinations and has demonstrated negative test results. CVIs are already required for interstate travel.
- Allow documentation to be submitted electronically prior to arrival. All submitted information and CVIs will be made available to the secretaries of Health and Human Services (Centers for Disease Control), Commerce, and Homeland Security (US Customs and Border Protection) through a centralized database to promote interagency coordination and streamline paperwork verification.
- Provide resources to USDA through a certificate fee to fund these initiatives.

Here's how to take action

1. [Sign up here](#)
2. [Click here to locate your US representative and senators](#) If you don't find an email address on this landing page, go to the Member's website, which is listed on this page and click contact. That will take you to their website. You can also look up their phone numbers and call them.
3. Tell your congress member why this bill is important to you and ask them to become co-sponsors.
4. Contact us if you have questions or need our assistance: naia@naiaonline.org

Thank you for working to protect and preserve our dogs,



Patti Strand, President
National Animal Interest Alliance

The following organizations are on record in support of the Healthy Dog Importation Act

Alabama Veterinary Medical Association
Alaska Veterinary Medical Association
American Association of Bovine Practitioners
American Association of Swine Veterinarians
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American Kennel Club
American Pet Products Association
American Sheep Industry Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
Animal Health Institute
Arizona Veterinary Medical Association
Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association
California Veterinary Medical Association
Colorado Veterinary Medical Association
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association
Delaware Veterinary Medical Association
District of Columbia Veterinary Medical Association
Florida Veterinary Medical Association
Georgia Veterinary Medical Association
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association
Idaho Veterinary Medical Association
Illinois Veterinary Medical Association
Indiana Veterinary Medical Association
International Pet and Animal Transportation Association
Iowa Veterinary Medical Association
Kansas Veterinary Medical Association
Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association
Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
Maryland Veterinary Medical Association
Master of Foxhounds Association of America
Michigan Veterinary Medical Association
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association
Missouri Veterinary Medical Association
Montana Veterinary Medical Association
National Animal Interest Alliance
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Pork Producers Council
Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association
Nevada Veterinary Medical Association
New Hampshire Veterinary Medical Association
New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association
New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association
New York Veterinary Medical Association
North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association

North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association
Ohio Veterinary Medical Association
Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association
Oregon Veterinary Medical Association
Pet Advocacy Network
Pet Food Institute
Pet Industry Distributors Association
Puerto Rico Veterinary Medical Association
Protect the Harvest
Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association
South Carolina Veterinary Medical Association
South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association
Sportsmen's Alliance
Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association
Texas Veterinary Medical Association
Utah Veterinary Medical Association
Vermont Veterinary Medical Association
Virginia Veterinary Medical Association
Washington Veterinary Medical Association
West Virginia Veterinary Medical Association
Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association
World Pet Association
Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association