

May 8, 2025

The Honorable Dusty Johnson
1714 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Don Davis
1123 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tina Smith
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Johnson, Representative Davis, Senator Grassley and Senator Smith:

We, the undersigned groups, write today to thank you for introducing the Healthy Dog Importation Act, which addresses the current gaps in oversight and prioritizes the prevention of disease introduction from imported dogs that threatens both animal and public health.

Unfortunately, more than 90 percent of imported dogs enter the country with minimal oversight by the U.S. government. In the absence of proper health requirements, imported dogs have been responsible for the introduction and transmission of diseases and pests into the U.S., including rabies, canine influenza, leptospirosis, melioidosis, onchocerosis and screwworm. There is also a growing concern amongst the producer groups that imported dogs and even their crates and bedding could transfer a foreign animal disease that will devastate the U.S. livestock industry.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 6 out of every 10 known human infectious diseases, including 75 percent of new diseases discovered in the last decade, are zoonotic in origin. Despite this, the U.S. lacks even the most basic health requirements such as proper veterinary evaluation prior to transporting a canine, appropriate identification and vaccination of dogs before arrival in the U.S., and strong coordination between the federal agencies that oversee animal and public health. Our system falls far short of those of other developed countries, who have stringent requirements for the movement of and importation of all animals.

We thank you for introducing the Healthy Dog Importation Act and prioritizing animal and public health. Our organizations look forward to working with you to ensure this bipartisan bill is enacted as a standalone bill or part of the 2025 Farm Bill.

Sincerely,

American Association of Bovine Practitioners
American Association of Food Safety & Public Health Veterinarians
American Association of Small Ruminant 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
ARK Import Export Center, LLC dba The ARK at JFK
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
International Pet and Animal Transportation Association
Iowa Veterinary Medical Association
Master of Foxhounds Association of North America
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
National Animal Interest Alliance
National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Pork Producers Council
North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association
Pet Advocacy Network
Pet Food Institute
Pet Industry Distributors Association
South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association
World Pet Association