

## **A Guide on How to Cross the Border to Show in Canada** **By Troy Laroche, Ontario Poultry Breeders (2019)**

Many American fanciers have asked the question, "what do I have to do to show birds in Canada". With many breed club national meets being in a rotation for equal access to its members, as well as the APA Canadian National meet that is rotated around the Canada, the interest by US fanciers on how to come across the border to show birds in Canada has never been so great. This article is meant to be a guide to help you in your quest as an US Fancier to come over the border to compete in Canada.

First off, your birds must originate from a pullorum-typhoid free flock. Which is standard for most shows everywhere. If you are part of NPIP you are more than likely already tested for pullorum-typhoid. If you are not, you must have a pullorum-typhoid test performed with negative results. You should then contact your local veterinarian to let them know of your intentions of wanting to show your birds in Canada and that you will be requiring a health certificate. The form you will require is the standard USDA APHIS VS Form 17-6. Your Veterinarian should have access to this form and it is available on line on the APHIS /USDA website by typing in VS Form 17-6. Your veterinarian will do a flock inspection to ensure the health of your flock. You will need to give your veterinarian a list of the breeds and leg bands of the birds you intend to show in Canada to be listed on this VS Form 17-6. The leg band numbers need correspond to the breed. Any type of band is fine, but must be numbered (duplicate numbers should be avoided, if at all possible) Once this form is filled out it will need to be sent to your states AG office for stamping and endorsement which your local vet should be able to arrange. This is a must to make this document official. Also, you must present the original of the VS Form 17-6 at the border. No photocopies, carbon copies or duplicates of any type will be accepted by the border Veterinarian upon your arrival into Canada. This paperwork takes approximately 2 weeks to get stamped and endorsed as well is only good for 30 days after the stamp has been affixed to the documents, so plan accordingly.

Once you have your VS Form 17-6 stamped by the state & endorsed by your state official & local Veterinarian (make sure you have the originals), you are all set to head for the Canadian Border. The Canadian Border Veterinarians (Canadian Food Inspection Agency aka CFIA) are on duty between the hours of 8 AM and 4 :30 PM Monday through Friday. Not all borders have CFIA veterinarians on duty, please check with the show you intend to travel to for some direction on which border point to cross. With that you must plan your trip accordingly as they do not stay past the set hours listed above. Out side of these hours of operation the CFIA Border Veterinarian may extend their hours or work on a call out situation, but this must be arranged prior arrival with in the hours listed above and is subject to an over time fee. CFIA crossing points can be found on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca) under animal health offices.

When you line up at the Canadian border crossing, once at the inspection booth, declare that you have live poultry on board and that you need to see the CFIA Veterinarian. They will then send you to secondary inspection or may just direct you to the CFIA inspection station. This is at the customs agents' discretion on how you are handled. Once at the CFIA Veterinarians office they will process your paperwork and will inspect your birds. Make sure the number of birds listed and the band numbers match your paperwork. You can have less birds but not more. If less birds make sure you know which ones you did not bring. Some times they count. There is a charge for this service payable with a credit card. Once you are processed you are on your way to the show.

On your return to the US, you may have less birds on your paperwork (sales, etc.) but not more. And yes some times they count. It is much easier if you can stay over until the Monday to cross back to the US, but, if you are crossing on the weekend the US vet will need to be called out for an inspection. Appointments are appreciated, and in most cases required for weekend crossings. A full list of USDA border office's with phone numbers and contact info for setting up an return appointment can be found at [www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/downloads/nies\\_contacts/ps/pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/nies_contacts/ps/pdf) and there is a charge for this service . Once released you are on your way.

We hope you consider coming to a Canadian Show. Although it is a bit of paperwork and planning, it is a great experience to show in Canada. We treat you like family and will show you a great time! Currently with the exchange rate at \$1.30, i.e. 1 US dollar is equal to \$.70 Canadian - your show expenses are 30 % less than when you are in the USA. Some thing to consider.