

Bringing your birds to the Canadian Meet

Introduction

The 60th anniversary Saskatchewan Falconers Association field meet will be the first NAFA-sponsored field meet in Canada. The meet will be held in Swift Current, SK from October 1 to 7, 2018. This area of Saskatchewan offers exceptional opportunities to hunt waterfowl, Hungarian partridge and sharp-tailed grouse in accessible, wide-open country.

Meet details and registration information can be found at <https://www.n-a-f-a.com/event/2018SFAMeet>

Special arrangements have been made with the USFWS to make it as easy and inexpensive as possible for American falconers to bring their birds and join us for this unique event.

The information below will detail exactly what paperwork and permits you need. None of the forms are complex, but you should read the information carefully to ensure there are no errors. Also please contact Martin Geleynse nafavicepresident@n-a-f-a.com or mpgeleynse@icloud.com if you are thinking about coming.

Executive Summary:

1. Get a CITES pet passport from the USFWS for you bird(s): See “U.S. Falconry Birds” at <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/permits/import-and-export.php>. Cost \$75
2. Get a USDA-endorsed “poultry” health certificate: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/library/forms/pdf/V517_6.pdf. Cost varies
3. Make sure Martin Geleynse knows your plans: nafavicepresident@n-a-f-a.com
4. Arrive at Sweetgrass MT and have your birds inspected at the border. USFWS costs covered by NAFA under special arrangement. CFIA inspection \$30 CDN (\$25 US)

Before you leave:

If you are thinking about coming there are 3 things you need to do:

1. Contact Martin Geleynse at nafavicepresident@n-a-f-a.com or mpgeleynse@icloud.com so that he knows you are coming and can coordinate with the various border agencies.
2. Apply for a CITES “Pet Passport”
3. Obtain a USDA-endorsed Health Certificate (Form VS 17-6)

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CITES “Pet Passport”

A “Pet Passport” is a CITES permit that allows for temporary non-commercial export and re-import of personally-owned CITES-listed species. It is good for 3 years and allows multiple crossings. The permit is issued by the US FWS. With this permit an import permit from Canada is NOT required.

For details and a downloadable application form look under “U.S. Falconry Birds” at <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/permits/import-and-export.php>.

Health Certificate

You must have your bird inspected by a USDA-accredited vet. The inspection form, VS 17-6 is the same form used for poultry exports. **Important:** *your vet will need to get the form endorsed by the USDA. This is done online through the USDA web site.*

The inspection certificate is valid for 30 days and is required to get your bird into Canada and back into the United States.

The form can be downloaded from https://www.aphis.usda.gov/library/forms/pdf/VS17_6.pdf

At the Border - US:

NAFA has made a special arrangement with the US FWS to treat all export/imports for the meet as a single crossing. NAFA will pay the inspection fee and “designated port exception” permit fee for all members crossing at Sweetgrass MT on October 1, 2018 and returning on October 8 or October 14 (TBD). Individual falconers will **not** have to pay the \$435 inspection fee normally charged by the USFWS.

Before you cross in to Canada you will (in order)

1. Stop at the US FWS office just before the border in Sweetgrass MT to have your bird(s) and CITES permit inspected. Assuming I have been informed that you are coming, an appointment will be set up for you. This inspection will take about 15 minutes.
2. Proceed to the CFIA (Canada Food Inspection Agency) veterinarian’s office which is also on the U.S. side of the border, to have your health certificate and bird(s) inspected by the Canadian vet. This inspection will take about 15 minutes. As with the USFWS, an appointment should be set up in advance.

You will then proceed to the Canadian port of entry.

At the Border - Canada:

At the Canadian port of entry you will go through the normal customs/immigration inspection and will be asked if you have anything to declare. You will say “yes”

1. Declare your birds traveling with you under a CITES pet passport.

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2. Declare any firearms you have. NOTE: importing firearms normally used for hunting (shotguns in this case) is relatively straight forward. On the other hand, possession of handguns is severely restricted in Canada. Details for importing firearms can be found at <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/fs-fd/visit-visite-eng.htm>
3. The officer will ask you to pull up to the building where your CITES permit will be stamped and bird(s) may be inspected. This should take no more than 15 minutes.

Proceed to the meet location at Swift Current SK, about 4 hours away

At the Border - Return to the US:

We have not yet finalized the date of return. This will depend on the wishes of those making the trip. Currently we expect that either October 6, 8 or 12 will be the most desirable dates for return. In any case, upon your return to the US, declare your birds at the gate on the U.S. side.

1. Proceed to the USFWS to have your CITES permit and bird inspected. There is no fee for this as you are returning from a temporary export
2. Proceed to the USDA to have your health certificate inspected.