



**U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)** enforces the Dog and Cat Protection Act which includes detecting and prohibiting illegal international trade of dog and cat fur products imported into the United States. To fulfill its mission, CBP analyzes trade data and uses a risk-based approach to identify the highest risk imports. CBP officers perform examinations of potentially violative imports at U.S. ports of entry.

**The Dog and Cat Protection Act** Pursuant to 19 U.S.C. § 1308, the act prohibits the importation and exportation of any dog or cat fur products into and out of the U.S. More specifically, the act makes it illegal to introduce, manufacture, sell, trade, offer to sell, advertise, transport or distribute dog and cat fur product in the interstate commerce of the U.S. CBP partners with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations to enforce the domestic portion of the law.

**Definition** Dog and cat fur products are items made of any dog fur, cat fur or both. ‘Dog fur’ means the pelt or skin of any animal of the species *Canis familiaris*. ‘Cat fur’ means the pelt of skin of any animal of the species *Felis catus*. The act does not simply prohibit products which contain fur; the act prohibits the importation of dog and cat leather products, which are comprised of dog and cat skin. Violations of the act are remedied through seizure and forfeiture, civil penalties and debarment when appropriate.

**Seizure and Forfeiture** When merchandise is detected that violates the act, the merchandise is subject to seizure and forfeiture.

**Penalties** Any person who violates the act may be assessed a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 for each separate knowing and intention of violation, \$5,000 for each separate gross negligence violation, or \$3,000 for each separate negligent violation.

**Debarment** When an entity has been found to have committed a knowing and intentional or a gross negligent violation of the act, the entity may be prohibited from importing, exporting, transporting, distributing, manufacturing or selling any fur product in the U.S.

**Publication** A list of the names of any producer, manufacturer, supplier, seller, importer or exporter found to have committed a knowing and intentional or a gross negligent violation of the act will be published in the Federal Register.

**Trade Violation Allegations** Suspected violations may be reported via CBP’s e-Allegations, online trade violation reporting system at: <https://apps.cbp.gov/eallegations>. Allegations may be reported anonymously.

**Reward** Any person who furnishes information leading to a civil penalty assessment, debarment or forfeiture of property for any violation the act may be entitled to a reward for this information.

**Information or Allegations** If you wish to meet with CBP to discuss the enforcement of the act or to report suspected violations, please contact the Office of Trade at [trade.enforcement@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:trade.enforcement@cbp.dhs.gov) or you may send information to:

Office of Trade  
US Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
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