

**CONSULAR NEWS  
SENEGAL & GUINEA BISSAU**

**U.S. Embassy Dakar, Senegal  
September 2006**

**September's Frequently Asked Question**

Q. What is required to bring my pet to Senegal? Also, will I easily be able to get my pet back into the U.S. after s/he resides in Senegal for a few years?

A. Although no quarantine period is required, dogs and cats must have a valid health and rabies certificate in order to enter Senegal. Senegal only requires that the health and rabies certificates be issued by a licensed veterinarian in the U.S. They do not require, as do some other countries, that USDA endorse the certificates or that a federally accredited veterinarian examine the pet and issue an Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) form.

Some airlines restrict the transport of pets during the months of May through September. Airlines may charge a handling fee to ship pets, which must be paid upon the pets' arrival in Dakar. In addition, pets shipped from Dakar are charged a special tax that is based on the weight of the animal.

To return to the U.S. with your pet, CDC regulations govern the importation of dogs, cats, turtles, monkeys, other animals, and animal products capable of causing human disease. Requirements for the importation of the most common pets are described below. Pets taken out of the U.S. are subject upon return to the same regulations as those entering for the first time.

The CDC does not require general certificates of health for pets for entry into the U.S. However, health certificates may be required for entry into some states, or may be required by airlines for pets. You should check with officials in your state of destination and with your airline prior to your travel date.

Restrictions on the importation of nonhuman primates, certain other animals, and certain animal products capable of causing more serious human disease are described under Restricted Animals, Agents, Hosts, and Vectors at the following website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/animal.htm>.

For answers to frequently asked questions about importing pets to the U.S., please visit the following website: [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/faq\\_animal\\_importation.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/faq_animal_importation.htm).

**U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center**

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) is pleased to announce the addition of an exciting and valuable information resource - a database called "Academic Elite" that offers over 1000 full text American Journals. Virtually all of the articles are in English. The "Academic Elite" database provides up-to-date resources for local researchers in most academic fields. Printing services are not available at the IRC, but researchers can easily email the articles to their own email accounts.

The IRC is located in Kleber #2 building on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor. Besides a print reference collection, the IRC maintains six public access computer workstations. Bilingual librarians are available to assist patrons. The IRC is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All services are free. American citizens are welcome to visit the IRC and access the journals.

For more information, please call Stephen Mallinger, Information Resource Officer at 823-1185 ext. 3105 or Demba Sene, IRC Director at 823-1185 ext. 3113.

### **Department of State Begins Issuing Electronic Passports to the Public**

To enhance border security and to facilitate travel, the Department of State recently began issuing Electronic Passports (e-passports) to the public. Production started at the Colorado Passport Agency and will be expanded to other production facilities over the next few months. Consistent with specifications adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), this next generation of the U.S. passport includes biometric technology. A contactless chip in the rear cover of the passport will contain the same data as that found on the biographic data page of the passport (name, date of birth, gender, place of birth, dates of passport issuance and expiration, passport number), and will also include a digital image of the bearer's photograph.

The Department of State has employed a multi-layered approach to protect the privacy of the information and to mitigate the chances of the electronic data being skimmed (unauthorized reading) or eavesdropped (intercepting communication of the transmission of data between the chip and the reader by unintended recipients). Metallic anti-skimming material incorporated into the front cover and spine of the e-passport book prevents the chip from being skimmed, or read, when the book is fully closed; Basic Access Control (BAC) technology, which requires that the data page be read electronically to generate a key that unlocks the chip, will prevent skimming and eavesdropping; and a randomized unique identification (RUID) feature will mitigate the risk that an e-passport holder could be tracked. To prevent alteration or modification of the data on the chip, and to allow authorities to validate and authenticate the data, the information on the chip will include an electronic signature (PKI).

The Department of State is confident that the new e-passport, including biometrics and other improvements, will take security and travel facilitation to a new level. For more information about the Electronic Passport, please visit the Bureau of Consular Affairs' website at <http://travel.state.gov>.

### **Travel in the Western Hemisphere**

The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 requires that by January 1, 2008, travelers to and from the Caribbean, Bermuda, Panama, Mexico and Canada have a passport or other secure, accepted document to enter or re-enter the U.S. In order to facilitate the implementation of this requirement, the Administration is proposing to complete it in phases following a proposed timeline, which will be published in the Federal Register in the near future. In the proposed implementation plan, which is subject to a period of initial public comment, the Initiative will be rolled out in phases, providing as much advance notice as possible to the affected public to enable them to meet the terms of the new guidelines. The proposed timeline will be as follows:

January 8, 2007 - Requirement applied to all air and sea travel to or from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda.

January 1, 2008 - Requirement extended to all land border crossings as well as air and sea travel.

This is a change from prior travel requirements and will affect all U.S. citizens entering the U.S. from countries within the Western Hemisphere who do not currently possess valid passports. This new requirement will also affect certain foreign nationals who currently are not required to present a passport to travel to the U.S. Most Canadian citizens, citizens of the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda, and to a lesser degree, Mexican citizens will be affected by the implementation of this requirement.

For more information, please visit the Bureau of Consular Affairs' website at <http://travel.state.gov>.

### **Crime Watch**

In July, two American citizens staying at a local hotel had thousands of dollars charged by Air France to the credit cards they used to pay their hotel bill.

On August 5 at approximately 1:00 p.m., two American women got in a taxi after negotiating a fare to Goree Island. When the taxi driver took them to Ngor Island instead and was confronted with the error, the driver became angry and demanded additional fare. When the taxi driver drove off without letting the women exit the taxi, one woman jumped out while the taxi was moving and sought assistance from a Senegalese man nearby. The taxi driver and American argued and eventually the American paid the taxi driver the original fare.

On August 22 at approximately 8:30 a.m., an American woman was driving her car on the autoroute, near Colobane garage in the section where traffic is very slow due to the detour. Someone knocked very hard on the car door next to her. When she turned her head to see what was happening, a man open another car door and took her purse.

### **Hours for American Citizen Services**

Routine American citizen services are available Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. When you arrive at the embassy, please show your U.S. passport or proof of American citizenship to the guard and go directly to the Consular Receptionist window. You do not have to wait in line with visa applicants.

Emergency American citizen services are available during U.S. Embassy normal working hours which are Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For an after-hours emergency involving an American citizen, please call 637-9566.

We are also available by e-mail at [consulardakar@state.gov](mailto:consulardakar@state.gov).

### **Have You Left Senegal or Guinea-Bissau?**

If you have left Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, please e-mail us at [consulardakar@state.gov](mailto:consulardakar@state.gov) so we can remove your name from the warden registration database. If you would like to remain on the newsletter mailing list, please let us know in your e-mail.