

she needs special documentation, in addition to proof of citizenship.

If only one parent escorts the child, notarized consent from the absent parent must be presented in addition to a copy of any separation or divorce decree. This consent is required even if the separation or divorce documents award custody of the child to the accompanying parent. If there is only one parent named on the child's birth certificate and the child is travelling with that parent, then no additional releases are required.

A child travelling to Mexico alone must have a notarized form — *Declaración notarial* — which grants permission for a minor travelling to Mexico and is available from Mexican consulates. Both parents must sign this form, which is valid for 180 days.

Pets

Dogs or cats can be brought into Mexico without advance approval. You will need a certificate from a Canadian veterinarian, issued within the previous 72 hours, stating that the animal is free of communicable diseases. You will also need a rabies vaccination certificate showing that the pet was vaccinated against rabies at

least one month but not more than one year before departure.

When bringing the pet back to Canada, you must present a certificate from a Canadian or Mexican veterinarian stating that the pet was vaccinated for rabies within the preceding three years. Canada has special regulations governing the importation of more than two dogs aged less than eight months. Taking birds or exotic pets into Mexico is not generally possible and the pet may be confiscated on arrival. Consult the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for more information.

Firearms

Mexico maintains strict controls on the importation of firearms. Handguns are prohibited, and even hunting weapons require complex authorization procedures. Mexico has ongoing problems with drug traffickers, armed robbers and guerrillas. Possession of an undocumented weapon is taken very seriously and may be grounds for imprisonment.

My key please.

Mi llave por favor.