

**Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets**  
**Food Safety & Consumer Protection Division**  
**Kristin Haas, DVM**  
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December 23, 2021

Dear Santa:

It is my distinct pleasure and privilege to notify you, on behalf of Vermont Governor Phil Scott and Secretary of Agriculture Anson Tebbetts, that passage into and through Vermont on Christmas Eve 2021 is granted. I have worked with Alaska State Veterinarian Dr. Bob Gerlach to verify that your esteemed reindeer team is in good health and fit for travel at altitudes of 10,000 ft or less. As Vermont's highest peak is under 5,000 ft, this allowance should be sufficient to ensure safe passage throughout the Green Mountain State. Please find your certificate of veterinary inspection attached.

There are several reminders I would like to offer that might help ease your travel and ensure your reindeer team maintains the strength needed to complete the task at hand:

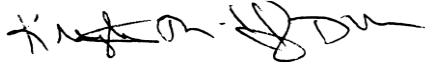
- Vermont has snow on its peaks, which should reflect Rudolph's nose nicely, light the surrounding sky, and prevent accidents. The Christmas Eve weather forecast calls for partly cloudy skies so during portions of your travel, you may need to instruct Rudolph to turn on his high beams.
- Although Vermont is the only land-locked New England state, we lay claim to Lake Champlain, which can provide a lovely water break should your reindeer team get thirsty while here. Although the ocean is certainly beautiful, we would always recommend fresh water over salt for reindeer drinking, and you will have plenty of it here, should you need it.
- The Vermont landscape is dotted with beautiful farms, many with cozy barns warmed by the body heat of dairy cows and other livestock. If your team needs a breather at any point while in Vermont, I am confident that our farmers would open their barn doors to you for a short rest before you head out again. We even have a reindeer farm here in Vermont if Rudolph and his teammates would prefer to nestle down with other reindeer.
- Not all Vermont households have had their chimneys cleaned yet this year. Please take care when entering Vermont houses that way. You might want to carry with you a few pairs of coveralls that can protect your bright red suit from unwanted soot accumulation.

The children and young-at-heart adults of Vermont are extremely excited about your arrival, and thank you for making your epic journey to spread joy again this year. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can be of service to you or your team. Fly well, and we wish for you a nice long nap afterwards and many carrot rewards for your hard-working reindeer. Peace to you, Mrs. Claus, the elves and your reindeer team this holiday season and beyond!



Thank you, Santa!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin M. Haas".

Kristin M. Haas, DVM

Vermont State Veterinarian

