

TAKING YOUR PET ABROAD

The Pet Passport Scheme (PETS) enables certain species of individual animals, normally resident in the U.K, to go abroad to certain specified countries and to return to the U.K. without quarantine.

Main points and features of PETS

Your dog, cat or ferret will need a Pet Passport if they are travelling to the UK from another EU country. The Passport will also allow your pet to travel from the UK to a listed country if you are then returning to the UK again.

European Union (EU) countries:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

In addition to the above countries, the UK will also accept passports from:

Andorra, Azores and Madeira, Canary Islands, French Guiana, Gibraltar, Greenland and the Faroe Islands, Guadeloupe, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Martinique, Monaco, Norway, Reunion, San Marino, Switzerland, Vatican City.

Listed countries are:

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Ascension Island, Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Bermuda, BES Islands (Bonair, Saint Eustatius and Saba), Bosnia-Herzegovina, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, Curaçao, Falkland Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Montserrat, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Saint Maarten, Singapore, St Helena, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Pierre and Miquelon, St Vincent and The Grenadines, Taiwan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, USA (includes American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the US virgin Islands), Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna.

Pets travelling from listed countries without a passport will need a third country Official Veterinary Certificate, to be completed by an official veterinary surgeon.

Process for getting a Pets Passport:

Each pet **must**:

- be fitted with a **microchip**, a permanent number radio frequency identification device (RFID) to ISO 11784 standard.
- be **vaccinated against rabies** using an approved vaccine (and have booster vaccinations at the required intervals) either in the United Kingdom or in one of the permitted countries and territories (listed above).
- **21 days must elapse after primary vaccination** (and booster vaccination, if past the “due date”) before an animal can enter the U.K. and avoid quarantine.
- Your pet must be at least 12 weeks old to have the rabies vaccination.
- be accompanied by an official, uniquely-numbered **Pet Passport**, signed by an official veterinary surgeon before your pet travels abroad, which certifies that the above requirements have been met.

- DOGS must be **treated for tapeworm** (*Echinococcus multilocularis*). The treatment must be administered by a vet **1 to 5 days** (not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours) **before your pet enters the United Kingdom** - to prevent a potentially serious zoonosis (disease transmissible from animals to humans) coming into the U.K. The vet must record this in the Pets Passport when the treatment is given.
- We strongly recommend that your pet is also treated for external parasites, e.g. ticks, which can carry and transmit other serious diseases of dogs.

What happens when I travel?

- Before your pet enters the United Kingdom, its microchip and Pet Passport (showing rabies vaccination and treatment against tapeworm) will be checked by the transport company. Failure to comply with the regulations could result in your pet being quarantined, and you will be responsible for any fees incurred.
- If you are travelling without a passport from a non-listed country, then you will need to request a third country Official Veterinary Certificate. Please contact APHA for more information (see below).

Further information

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad>

Pet Travel Scheme helpline

pettravel@apha.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 0370 241 1710

Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm (closed on bank holidays)

Animal and Plant Health Agency

Telephone: 0370 241 1710

Pet Travel Section

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Centre for International Trade

Eden Bridge House

Lowther Street

Carlisle

CA3 8DX