

# Pet travel: information for pet owners

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[Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#) and [Animal and Plant Health Agency](#)

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Information on pet passports, microchipping, vaccination and routes for people bringing pet dogs, cats or ferrets into the UK.

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You can bring your pet dog, cat or ferret into the UK without quarantine as long as it meets the rules of the pet travel scheme. These rules also allow you to take your dog, cat or ferret to other countries and territories and return with them to the UK without the need for quarantine.

Some changes were made to the pet travel scheme on 29 December 2014. They are explained in our [guidance on the changes](#).

If you are looking to bring animals into the UK for sale or re-homing then you will need to comply with the [rules governing trade in these animals](#).

It is important that you comply with these rules; they are in place to keep the UK free from rabies and certain other exotic diseases. The UK has been free from rabies for many years, but because of the existence of the disease in other countries there is a continued need for an effective system to manage the risk of rabies being brought in by imported animals.

## Dogs, cats and ferrets

You are responsible for ensuring your pet meets all the rules for entering the UK under the pet travel scheme. Make sure you have had the procedures carried out in the correct order and that your pet's documentation is correctly completed. If you do not, your pet may not be able to enter the country or may have to be licensed into quarantine on arrival. This will mean delay and will cost you money.

### What you need to do

The information below outlines what preparations your pet will need to enter the UK depending on what country you are travelling from.

If you are entering the UK from the EU or a listed non-EU country your pet must:

- be identified with a [microchip](#)
- have received a rabies [vaccination](#) followed by a 21 day wait
- be accompanied by the relevant [documentation](#)
- be treated against [tapeworm](#) (dogs only)
- enter with an approved transport company on an [authorised route](#)

If you are entering the UK from an unlisted non-EU country your pet must:

- be identified with a [microchip](#)
- have received a rabies [vaccination](#)
- complete a [blood test](#) followed by a three month wait
- be accompanied by the relevant [documentation](#)
- be treated against [tapeworm](#) (dogs only)
- enter with an approved transport company on an [authorised route](#)

If you are re-entering the UK from an unlisted country with an EU pet passport:

Pets travelling to an unlisted non-EU country that have been identified, microchipped and blood sampled 30 days after vaccination demonstrating a positive titration result before leaving the UK (or another EU country) may re-enter the UK without having to meet the three month waiting period. The vaccination, blood sample and positive titration result must be recorded on the pet passport.

## **How many pets can I travel with?**

Under the EU pet travel scheme the number of pets that you can travel with is limited to five per person. Anyone looking to travel with more than five pets must comply with the rules governing the [commercial trade and import regime](#).

The only exception to this rule is for pet owners who are travelling to attend a competition, show, sporting event or training for such an event. You will need to provide written evidence that you are eligible to make use of this exemption and will be asked to present this when you travel. All the pets accompanying you must be attending the event or training and they must all be aged over six months. In addition you will need to complete a [declaration](#) confirming that you do not intend to sell or transfer ownership of your pets and you must bring this with you when you travel.

For more information contact the Import team at the [Centre for International Trade - Carlisle](#).

## **Microchips**

We will make it compulsory for all dogs in England to be fitted with microchips by 6 April 2016. Further information on our [dog microchipping policy](#).

### **Fitting a microchip**

Your pet must be fitted with a microchip to identify it. You can get your pet fitted with a microchip at any time but it must be done before it is vaccinated against rabies. Your vet should read the microchip number in your pet and record it on your pet's vaccination record at the time of vaccination.

Make sure that the microchip number is also correctly recorded on the [EU pet passport or third country official veterinary certificate](#) at the time of issue.

The microchip should be inserted according to the manufacturer's instructions (and any national rules that may apply). To ensure that the microchip works, its number should be read both before and after it has been fitted. You should also get your vet to read the microchip every time you visit and before you travel.

### **Who can microchip?**

Only certain trained people can implant microchips in pets (dogs, cats and ferrets) that are being prepared for travel under the EU pet travel scheme:

- vets
- vet nurse, student vet or student vet nurse acting under the direction of a vet
- individuals who have been assessed on an approved training course
- individuals who, before 29 December 2014, had received training which included practical experience of microchipping

If your pet already has a microchip when you decide to take it abroad you do not need to get it re-chipped.

The following microchipping training courses have been approved by Defra in England for the purposes of pet travel:

- [Lantra Awards Level 3 Award in Performing Microchip Implantation in Animals \(QCF\)](#)

## **Type of microchip**

We do not specify a particular type or brand of microchip to be used but, in Europe, ISO (International Standards Organisation) Standard microchips meeting specifications 11784 and capable of being read by a device compatible with ISO Standard 11785 are generally used.

## **Microchip reading**

ISO Standards are used in Europe, so vets and transport companies who undertake pet travel checks are likely to have only ISO-compatible scanners. If the microchip does not meet either of the standards above, it is your responsibility to ensure that the microchip can be read upon entry to the UK.

This may mean that you will need to provide a microchip reader (at your expense) to allow the chip to be read. Some ports of entry may have equipment capable of reading other types of microchip and you should check this with them before you travel.

If you do not, your animal may be refused entry. It can be licensed into [quarantine](#) and released once it has met all of the requirements of the Pet Travel Scheme.

If an appropriate scanner does not read your animal's microchip at the first attempt, further attempts should be made moving the scanner slowly and thoroughly over the animal. A more powerful scanner should be tried if available.

## **Updating the microchip database before travelling**

If your pet's microchip number is registered on a database, consider making sure the details are up to date before you travel. This could help reunite you with your pet should it go missing while on holiday.

## **What to do if the microchip has failed**

In the event your vet is unable to scan and read the original microchip, the pet must be re-chipped. If the pet has been previously prepared for travel, then it must be re-prepared in accordance with pet travel rules and a new pet passport issued.

Your vet should note in the 'OTHERS' Section of the EU pet passport that there is another microchip present that cannot be scanned and read, in case the fault is intermittent and the chip is picked up at the port when the pet is checked for compliance for entry to the UK.

If the microchip has not failed follow the advice on intermittent failure below.

### **What to do if the microchip only works intermittently**

We recommend that a new chip is inserted in case the existing chip fails at some point in the future. The following procedure must be carried out in order to maintain a pet's compliance:

1. The original microchip, implanted prior to the initial rabies vaccination, must be scanned and a reading made.
2. Having gained a reading, a new microchip may then be inserted.
3. 'Section XI. OTHERS' of the EU pet passport may then be annotated by your vet to read (or similar): "On (date), I scanned and read microchip number (original microchip number). Upon gaining this reading, I inserted microchip number (new microchip number) on the same day, in accordance with Defra requirements."

This statement does not need to be exactly as shown, but the dates of chip readings and the numbers of the chips must be stated and this statement should be signed and stamped by the OV.

Provided this procedure is carried out as stated above, the pet will remain fully compliant with UK entry requirements under EU pet movement rules.

Alternatively, pet owners may choose to fully re-prepare their animal in line with the failed microchip procedures outlined above, and have a new pet passport issued.

Pet passports issued after 29 December 2014 will include a laminated page covering the details of the pet's microchip. If you have one of these new style passports and it is necessary to insert a second microchip into your pet then a new passport will need to be issued with both microchip numbers recorded in Section III (Marking of Animal).

- [Pets: UK microchip manufacturers and suppliers](#) (PDF, 73.5KB, 2 pages)

## **Failure of Virbac microchips**

Virbac have identified a functionality issue with some microchips supplied before April 2012.

The following chips with these batch numbers need to be replaced:

- chip numbers with the format 900088000XXXXXX
- chip numbers up to 900008800259207

Virbac has contacted all of its veterinary surgeon customers with a list of their clients who have received these microchips. It has also written to all of the pet owners that may be affected, advising them to get their pets' chips checked. If you have not received a letter but think your pet may be affected, speak to your vet.

## **Tattoos**

All pet dogs, cats and ferrets entering the UK under the Pet Travel Scheme must be identified. This will usually be by microchip.

There is one exception for pets that have been identified by a tattoo which was applied on or before 3 July 2011. If the tattoo is clearly legible, and the tattoo was applied before the pet was vaccinated against rabies, then the pet does not need to be microchipped. The date of tattooing, the tattoo number and vaccination must be recorded in the pet passport or official third country veterinary health certificate.

If a pet cannot be readily identified by a tattoo before it enters the UK under the Pet Travel Scheme, it may be refused entry. It can be licensed into quarantine and released once it has met all of the requirements of the Scheme.

## **Vaccination**

After the microchip has been fitted your pet must be vaccinated against rabies. There is no exemption to this requirement, even if your pet has a current rabies vaccination.

### **When to vaccinate**

Your pet must be vaccinated against rabies in accordance with the recommendation on the vaccine manufacturer's data sheet. All pets vaccinated for the purposes of pet travel after 29 December 2014 must be at least 12 weeks old at the time of vaccination.

Your pet must be microchipped before being vaccinated. Before vaccinating your pet, make sure your vet reads its microchip number and enters it on your pet's vaccination record.

If your pet has been vaccinated against rabies before it was identified by a microchip, it will have to be vaccinated again. This is to make sure that your pet is correctly identified when it is vaccinated.

An approved inactivated vaccine or recombinant vaccine must be used. The vaccine must be approved in the country of use.

### **21 day wait**

You must wait 21 days from the date of the first rabies vaccination before your pet can enter the UK or another EU country if you are travelling from an [EU or a listed non-EU country](#).

If the vaccine manufacturer's data sheet requires more than one vaccination to complete the primary course of vaccinations, the 21 day wait applies from the date of the final vaccination of that course. It is important to note that the day of vaccination counts as day 0 not day 1 – eg if you have your pet vaccinated on the 1st of the month the earliest it can travel is the 22nd. Ask your vet for advice. Pet passports issued after 29 December 2014 also include a 'valid from' field which will be completed by your vet.

A 21 day waiting period is not required for subsequent entries into the UK, provided rabies boosters are kept up to date.

For pets entering the UK from unlisted countries, different rules apply. After your pet has been vaccinated, it must be [blood](#)

[tested](#) to make sure the vaccine has worked and then serve out a 3 month waiting period.

### **Booster vaccinations**

After your pet has been vaccinated, it will need regular booster vaccinations. These must be kept up to date and be given by the “Valid until” date in the relevant section of the EU pet passport or third country official veterinary certificate.

Booster vaccinations are valid for entry to the UK and other EU countries from the date given provided they are given on time (according to the instructions in the vaccine manufacturer’s data sheet where the previous vaccination was given).

If the revaccination date is missed your pet will not meet the conditions of the scheme and will have to be vaccinated again and have to wait 21 days before it can move under the scheme.

### **Vaccination record**

When your pet is vaccinated, make sure that your vet has recorded the following details on its vaccination record and passport or third country official veterinary certificate:

- date of birth
- microchip number, date of insertion and location of the microchip on the animal
- date of vaccination
- vaccine product name
- batch number
- date its booster vaccination is due (calculated by reference to the vaccine manufacturer’s data sheet)
- contact details as indicated

For passports issued after 29 December 2014 a ‘valid from’ date should also be included for the primary vaccination, but is not required for booster vaccinations. This date is 21 days from the date of vaccination – eg if you have your pet vaccinated on the 1st of the month the earliest it can travel is the 22nd. Additionally, where the rabies vaccination takes the form of a sticker, this must be covered by a laminated strip (provided with the passports).

## Blood test

A blood test is required for pet dogs, cats and ferrets entering the UK from unlisted third countries.

A blood sample must be taken at least 30 days after the pet is vaccinated against rabies. The vet will then send the sample to an [EU approved blood testing laboratory](#) for testing and the laboratory will send the test result back to the vet.

The date of vaccination counts as day 0 not day 1.

A satisfactory blood test result must show the rabies antibody titre was equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/ml. If the test result is satisfactory, the date the blood sample was taken will be recorded by the vet in the official third country veterinary health certificate and the vet will sign the certificate to show that the pet passed the blood test.

If the blood test is satisfactory, then the pet will be allowed to enter the UK three calendar months after the date the blood sample was taken. The date of sampling is counted as day 0 and not day 1.

Please note: The three month waiting period will not apply if your pet was first vaccinated and blood tested in the EU and issued with an EU pet passport before it went to an unlisted country. The pet passport must show the date of the blood sample and that the vet has signed it to show that the test result was satisfactory.

## Documentation

To bring your dog, cat or ferret into (or back into) the UK, it must be accompanied either by an EU pet passport or a third country official veterinary certificate. The passport or certificate must show that your pet has been microchipped (a [tattoo](#) is only acceptable in certain circumstances), vaccinated against rabies and if necessary [blood tested](#). It must also show that your dog has been treated against [tapeworm](#).

A new style pet passport was introduced on 29 December 2014. Any passport issued before 29 December 2014 will remain valid for the lifetime of the pet or until all the treatment spaces are filled. All passports issued on or after 29 December 2014 must be in the new format.

Cats coming from Australia must be accompanied by a certificate showing protection against Hendra disease. Cats and dogs coming from the Malaysian Peninsula must be accompanied by a certificate showing protection against Nipah disease.

You are responsible for making sure you have the necessary documentation for your pet to enter the UK. Make sure it is correctly completed and your pet meets all the rules. If your pet does not meet the entry rules, it will not be allowed to enter the UK unless it is licensed into quarantine.

## **Pet passport**

### **How to get an EU pet passport**

In Great Britain, a pet passport is issued by an Official Veterinarian (OV). If your veterinary practice does not have a resident OV, your vet will tell you where the nearest one works. Your local [Animal and Plant Health Agency Office](#) can also provide these details.

When you go to get the pet passport, take your pet with you, along with its identity and vaccination record and, if applicable, the blood test result. Your pet will only need a blood test if you are taking it to an unlisted third country and bringing it back to the UK or other EU Member State later. In that case, the blood sample must be taken at least 30 days after your pet was vaccinated.

Before you take your pet out of the UK, make sure that the vet has completed the relevant sections. For passports issued before 29 December 2014 sections I-IV of the pet passport must be completed, together with section V if your pet needed a blood test.

Passports issued after 29 December 2014 also include a section which needs to be completed by the issuing vet and you should therefore check that in these passports sections I-V are completed, together with section VI if your pet needed a blood test.

If you are entering the EU from a non-EU country but travelling with a pet passport then you will also need to complete a [declaration confirming that your movement is non-commercial](#).

### **Validity of the passport**

The passport is valid for entry (or re-entry) to the UK or any other EU country from another EU country or a listed third country 21 days after your pet was vaccinated against rabies. If 21 days has already passed and your pet's rabies vaccinations have been kept up to date, then you can use the passport immediately. The passport will remain valid provided your pet is re-vaccinated by the "valid until" date entered by your vet.

### **Replacing the passport**

When the passport is full, you should apply to your vet for a new one. Take the old passport and your pet with you.

### **Third country official veterinary certificate**

A [model animal health certificate for non-commercial movement of dogs, cats and ferrets from territories or third countries](#) (PDF, 70.6KB, 8 pages) must be completed for the non-commercial movement of up to 5 pets from all third countries into all EU Member States, including the UK. This can be issued by official veterinarians in all third countries.

In addition, pet owners travelling from outside the EU will also need to complete a [declaration](#) (Annex IV Part 3 Section A) confirming that they do not intend to sell or transfer ownership of their pet as a consequence of their movement.

### **Validity of the certificate**

For non-commercial movements, the third country certificate is valid for entry into the EU for 10 days from the date of issue and remains valid for a total of four months from the date of issue for further intra-Community travel. The certificate must be endorsed by the person who checks your pet when you first arrive in the EU.

If your pet is due a rabies booster vaccination when it is in the EU and before the certificate expires, the certificate cannot be renewed and will have to be exchanged for an EU pet passport.

### **Changing the certificate for a pet passport**

If the certificate expires while you are in the EU, and you wish to continue travelling in the EU with your pet, you will need to

exchange it for an EU pet passport. In addition to the certificate, you will need to provide the vet with your pet's identity and vaccination record and blood test result (if needed).

## **Parasites (ticks and tapeworms)**

### **Have your pet treated against tapeworms**

Tapeworm rules apply to pet dogs only. Not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours (1 to 5 days) before its scheduled arrival time in the UK under the Pet Travel Scheme, your dog must be treated against tapeworm and the treatment recorded in the EU pet passport or the third country official veterinary certificate.

No treatment is required for dogs entering the UK directly from Finland, Ireland, Malta or Norway (treatment is required for indirect movements).

Your dog must be treated against the tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis* using an approved/licensed veterinary medicine whose active ingredient is Praziquantel, or an equivalent product. You should check with your vet to ensure the correct treatment is used.

A qualified vet must carry out and record the treatment in your pet's passport or third country certificate. You must not administer the treatment yourself. The treatment must be carried out every time your pet enters the UK.

Before leaving the veterinary practice you are advised to check that the following details have been recorded accurately in the EU pet passport or the third country official veterinary certificate:

- manufacturer and name of product
- date
- time
- stamp and signature

If any of the above details are not clearly and precisely recorded, you will be refused entry into the UK.

To return to the UK, the treatment must have been given within 24 and 120 hours by the time you re-enter the UK. This means for a

day trip your pet must be treated before you leave the UK. In these circumstances, it is recommended that a further treatment should be administered 28 days after you return to the UK.

Pet owners are reminded that it is considered good practice to regularly treat their animals against a range of ticks and tapeworms as part of their routine health management, especially if travelling abroad. Veterinarians are advised to discuss with their clients the appropriate course of action.

Dog owners should practice good hygiene when handling their animals. The NHS provides [public health advice](#) on contact with pets and preventing tapeworm infection.

### **Why dogs have to be treated for tapeworm**

The tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis* can cause a serious or fatal liver disease in humans. Symptoms include abdominal pain, jaundice, fever and anaemia and tapeworm cysts may develop in the liver. Treatment may involve surgery or lifelong chemotherapy. Without treatment the disease is usually fatal. This tapeworm is not found in the UK, but is present in France, Germany, and other parts of continental Europe. The treatment needs to be given not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours before the dog enters the UK to ensure that the tapeworm eggs are not shed in the UK.

Qualitative risk assessments have been carried out on the risk of incursion of the tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis* and various tick borne diseases:

- [Qualitative Risk Assessment: tapeworm \*Echinococcus multilocularis\*](#) (PDF, 2.25MB, 29 pages)
- [Qualitative Risk Assessment: tick borne diseases](#) (PDF, 343KB, 28 pages)

Import controls relating to tapeworm are implemented under [EU Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) No 1152/2011](#).

### **Routes and transport companies**

Only certain transport companies and routes can be used to bring pet dogs, cats and ferrets into Great Britain under the Pet Travel Scheme. These are known as approved routes. This means they

have been approved by APHA to bring pets into Great Britain under the Pet Travel Scheme and as part of that approval, are responsible for checking that the animal meets the rules of the Scheme. For pets arriving by air, the transport company may delegate those checks to a third party, such as an Animal Reception Centre.

The procedures for recognised assistance dogs differ from those for a pet - for details of these requirements, please read [travelling with assistance dogs](#).

You can use any of the routes and transport companies on the following lists to bring your pet into Great Britain under the Pet Travel Scheme. However, any carriage of pet animals is subject to the agreement of the transport company. There may also be a limit to the total number of pets that the transport company will let you travel with. Check with them that they are prepared to carry your pet(s).

You are not permitted to bring a pet into the UK on a private boat or plane from outside the UK.

If you are travelling from the Republic of Ireland you do not need to use an approved route, but all other rules apply.

### **Approved routes and transport companies**

The following routes and transport companies may be used to bring pet dogs, cats and ferrets into Great Britain. Different rules are in place for [recognised assistance dogs](#). Other dogs, cats and ferrets will travel as cargo.

- [Pet travel: routes by sea and rail \(Approved routes and transport companies\)](#) (PDF, 18.5KB, 2 pages)
- [Pet travel: approved air routes](#) (PDF, 9.81KB, 3 pages)

Routes may change and new ones may be added. Some routes may be irregular and some may only operate during certain times of the year.

Once you have chosen a route, contact the transport company to make sure they are willing to transport your pet before making a booking. You should check all your proposed travel arrangements with the transport company, including how they will transport your pet before booking your trip as they may have their own additional conditions of travel.

## **Charter routes by air (other air routes)**

Note that for these routes the aircraft must be booked for travel. The listed air companies operate from various airports overseas. Contact the air company direct if you wish to use one to bring your pet into the UK.

- [Pet travel: charter routes by air \(other air routes\)](#) (PDF, 24.5KB, 14 pages)

## **Fitness for travel**

The transport company that you use to bring your pet into the UK may require you to provide a veterinary statement that it is healthy and fit to travel before they will allow it to board.

Before you bring your pet into the UK you should check with the transport company if they need this veterinary statement, and if so, what form it should take. The veterinary statement may be provided either by:

- completion of the Clinical Examination section of the EU pet passport by a veterinarian or
- a private statement from a veterinarian stating that: 'On [date], I examined the animal described in EU Pet Passport/third country official veterinary certificate numbered [enter serial number] and found it to be free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease, including external parasites, and in my opinion, is fit to travel'. Members of the British Veterinary Association can [download a template](#).

## **Checks by transport companies**

### **Entering the UK by rail or sea**

Before you board Eurotunnel or a ship travelling to Great Britain from Europe on an approved route, you must present your pet to transport staff so that its microchip and official documentation can be checked. Pets travelling on an approved sea route from outside the EU and recognised assistance dogs travelling on Eurostar will be checked on arrival.

After a satisfactory check, pet owners travelling by Eurotunnel or ship from Europe will be given a badge or sticker which should be

displayed as instructed by the transport company staff. This should not be removed until you have left the port of arrival.

### **Entering the UK by air**

For pets travelling by air, the checks will be carried out on arrival in the UK, usually at the airport's Animal Reception Centre. Checks on recognised assistance dogs travelling in the passenger cabin will usually be done immediately on landing.

It is normal practice for the airline to cover flight and UK handling charges in their pet ticket price. You may wish to check this when making your booking. No charges are made by Defra.

If your pet fails its compliance check, it will either have to go into quarantine or be re-exported. If your pet has failed only because it has not met the rules on tapeworm treatment, it may be possible to have it treated on arrival and then held for 24 hours after treatment. If the animal arrives at an airport with a 48 hour holding facility this can be done there. In all other cases it must be done at the local quarantine premises. If it is treated in quarantine, you will have to seek approval for its release once it has met all the requirements of the Pet Travel Scheme.

We strongly recommend that if you intend to take your pet abroad and bring it back later, that you check that it meets the Pet Travel Scheme rules before you go.

All treatment costs and/or quarantine costs will be at the pet owner's expense.

- [Guidance for transport companies on checking pets when they enter the United Kingdom.](#)

### **Customs formalities – Pets entering the UK from outside the European Community**

Owners of pets entering the UK from outside the EU are required to complete Customs formalities. An agent, travel company or airline will do this for you for a fee. You are advised to discuss these charges before you travel as they might be included as part of a package.

Alternatively if you want to make your own arrangements you should contact the Customs authorities at your arrival point in the UK to obtain details of the necessary procedures.

Make sure that you know the terms and conditions under which the transport company will carry your pet, and that you have made a booking or reservation for its travel if required. Tell them if your animal is a guide or assistance dog so that special arrangements can be made.

## **Do owners need to accompany their pets?**

### **If your pet has an EU pet passport**

If you are not able to accompany your pet (for example if your pet is travelling on a different flight) then your pet's movement must be within 5 days of either your movement or the movement of a person you have authorised in writing to be responsible for your pet. If you can't meet this requirement then your pet will have to travel under the rules of the [commercial trade and import regime](#). If you are travelling from outside the EU then you must sign a [declaration confirming that your movement is non-commercial](#). This declaration must accompany the pet and its pet passport during the journey and is required for all movements from outside the EU, even where you are able to directly accompany your pet.

### **If your pet has a third country certificate**

All pet owners travelling with a third country certificate must complete a [declaration](#) (Annex IV Part 3 Section A) confirming that they do not intend to sell or transfer ownership of their pet. Your pet must move within 5 days of your movement or the movement of a person you have authorised in writing to be responsible for your pet. If you can't meet this requirement then your pet will have to travel under the rules of the [commercial trade and import regime](#).

## **Countries and territories**

Under the Pet Travel Scheme, all pet dogs, cats and ferrets (including [assistance dogs](#)) can enter or re-enter the UK from any country in the world without quarantine provided they meet the rules of the scheme. These rules are different depending on which country or territory the pet is travelling from.

## **EU countries**

European Union (EU) countries and territories:

- Austria
- Azores
- Balearic Islands
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Canary Islands
- Ceuta
- Croatia
- Cyprus (1)
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- French Guiana
- Germany
- Gibraltar
- Greece
- Guadeloupe (2)
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Madeira
- Malta
- Martinique
- Melilla
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Reunion
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden

(1) Dogs, cats and ferrets prepared for the Pet Travel Scheme in, or returning to the UK from the Republic of Cyprus, may enter or re-enter the UK without a blood test. However, animals travelling from north Cyprus (the area north of the Buffer Zone) must be blood sampled at least 30 days after vaccination against rabies and wait 3 months before travelling to the UK.

(2) Includes St Barthelemy and St Martin (French part of the island)

There are no requirements for pets travelling directly between the UK and either the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. Owners of pets entering the Channel Islands or, Isle of Man outside the UK should contact the appropriate authorities in those countries for advice on approved routes and any other requirements.

For Jersey visit the [States of Jersey website](#) or e-mail [rva@gov.je](mailto:rva@gov.je).

For Isle of Man visit the [Isle of Man government website](#).

### **Non-EU countries**

Non-EU listed countries and territories are those which the EU considers do not present a higher risk of rabies incursion compared to pet movements within the EU. Some of these are able to issue EU pet passports:

- Andorra
- Faroe Islands
- Greenland
- Iceland
- Liechtenstein
- Monaco
- Norway
- San Marino
- Switzerland
- Vatican City State

The remaining non-EU listed countries and territories are:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Aruba
- Ascension Island
- Australia (1)

- Bahrain
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Bermuda
- BES Islands (Bonair, Saint Eustatius and Saba) (6)
- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- British Virgin Islands
- Canada
- Cayman Islands
- Chile
- Curaçao
- Falkland Islands
- Fiji
- French Polynesia
- Guam
- Hawaii
- Hong Kong
- Jamaica (2)
- Japan
- Malaysia (4)
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Montserrat
- New Caledonia
- New Zealand
- Russian Federation (3)
- Saint Maarten (6)
- 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 (5)
- USA (7)
- Vanuatu
- Wallis and Futuna

(1) Cats from Australia are prohibited from entering the UK unless they are accompanied by a certificate from the Australian Veterinary Authorities confirming that they have not been on a holding where Hendra virus has been confirmed during the 60 days prior to export.

(2) Although Jamaica is a qualifying country under the EU Regulation, Jamaican law currently prevents the involvement of that country in the Pet Travel Scheme. Animals prepared for the Scheme may not enter Jamaica and animals may not be prepared for the Pet Travel Scheme in Jamaica.

(3) Please note that the following Republics are not part of the Russian Federation: Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

(4) The import into UK of dogs and cats from Malaysia (Peninsula) is prohibited unless health certification provided by the Malaysian veterinary authorities is provided which confirms that the cat or dog:

- has had no contact with pigs during at least the 60 days prior to export
- has not been resident on holdings where during the past 60 days any case of Nipah disease has been confirmed
- has been subjected with a negative result to an IgC capture ELISA test carried out in a laboratory approved for testing for antibody against the Nipah disease viruses by the competent veterinary authorities on a sample of blood taken within 10 days of export

In order to enquire about arrangements for the test to be carried out and obtaining the health certification, you will need to contact the Malaysian veterinary authorities on 006 03 88702000. The original health certification must accompany the dog/cat to the UK.

(5) The UAE consists of the following states Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Al Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain, and Al Fujairah.

(6) Formally known as the Netherland Antilles. The BES Islands are Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba.

(7) The mainland United States of America as well as American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

### **Unlisted countries**

An unlisted country is any country not listed in the list of EU or non-EU countries.

These countries have not applied or been accepted for listed status because of less robust veterinary or administrative systems or higher rabies incidence. The rules for how to bring your pet into or back into the UK are different for unlisted countries than they are for EU member states and listed countries.

## **Health and welfare of your pet abroad**

If you take your pet abroad, it may be exposed to diseases which we do not have in the UK, for example diseases transmitted by the bite of certain ticks, and parasites such as heartworm and tapeworm. It may not have a natural immunity to such diseases and could become infected. Some of these diseases can affect humans.

We recommend you consult your vet about your pet's health and fitness to travel before you take it abroad. Depending on where you are going, your vet should be able to advise you on preventative treatments, or any other precautions you need to take and how to look for signs of ill health in your pet.

If your pet shows signs of illness after returning from abroad, notify your vet so that they can consider the possibility of a disease or infection contracted by your pet whilst it was abroad.

### **Looking after your pet during the trip**

We recommend that if you are travelling on one of the longer ferry routes you arrive at the port early so your vehicle can be positioned in the best place in the hold for the welfare of your pet. Travelling overnight is also recommended if possible as your pet will be used to sleeping then. It is also better to feed your pet earlier in the day rather than just prior to travelling.

- [Protecting the welfare of pet dogs and cats during journeys: advice for owners](#)

## **Travelling in hot weather**

Animals should never be left in vehicles in direct strong sunshine and/or high temperatures as it is difficult to ensure sufficient ventilation to keep them cool. Unless animals are fully acclimatised, overheating, distress and suffering is likely when the temperature exceeds 25 degrees Celsius for more than a few minutes. The temperature in a car in full sun on a hot day can rise to double that outside of the vehicle in a short time, leading rapidly to distress for any animal in the vehicle.

## **Other documents you might need to enter the UK**

### **Cats from Australia**

Cats from Australia are prohibited from entering the UK unless they are accompanied by a certificate from the Australian Veterinary Authorities confirming that they have not been on a holding where Hendra virus has been confirmed during the 60 days prior to export.

### **Dogs and cats from the Malaysian Peninsular**

A dog or cat from Malaysia (Peninsular) is prohibited from entering the UK unless it is accompanied by a certificate issued by the Malaysian government veterinary health services which confirms:

- it has had no contact with pigs during at least the 60 days prior to export
- it has not been resident on holdings where during the previous 60 days any case of Nipah disease has been confirmed
- it has had a negative blood test result carried out in a laboratory approved for testing for Nipah virus antibody on a sample of blood taken within 10 days of export

## **Other animals**

Currently there are no rabies or tapeworm import requirements for other species of pet animals (rodents, rabbits, birds, ornamental fish, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles) transported to the UK from EU Member States. These species of pet animals may move freely to the UK.

Pet rabbits and rodents from certain other European countries (Andorra, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Vatican City State) and from non-EU countries require a licence and must enter quarantine for 4 months. For further information please contact the [Centre for International Trade – Carlisle](#).

Commission Decision 2003/459/EC prohibits the import into the EU of prairie dogs originating in or travelling from the USA and certain rodents and squirrels originating in or travelling from certain countries of the sub-Saharan region of Africa.

Information on the [import of pet birds](#).

## Legislation

### Pre-entry rabies conditions

[EU Regulation 576/2013](#) lays down the rabies import conditions which pets (cats, dogs and ferrets) must comply with when being moved between EU Member States and into the European Union from non-EU countries. The conditions are directly applicable in all EU Member States and have the objective of protecting public and animal health from the risk of rabies.

The conditions in this Regulation are directly applicable and part of UK law.

### Enforcement

The [Non-Commercial Movement of Pet Animals Order 2011](#) implements and enforces the EU import conditions in relation to the movement of pets into Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales). Northern Ireland has introduced separate legislation for the movement of pets into Northern Ireland. Pets which fail to meet the rabies and, where applicable, tapeworm import conditions on entering Great Britain are treated

as an illegal landing and subject to the provisions of the [Rabies \(Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals\) Order 1974](#) where they may be re-exported or quarantined in Great Britain until they meet the entry controls. Any pet owner caught smuggling a pet into Great Britain which fails to meet the entry controls may be prosecuted under the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974.

- [Legislation information relating to assistance dogs](#)

## Contact us

### Pet Travel Scheme helpline

Pet Travel Section

Animal and Plant Health Agency

Hadrian House, Wavell Drive

Rosehill Industrial Estate

Carlisle

CA1 2TB

Email [pettravel@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pettravel@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk)

Pet Travel Scheme helpline 0370 241 1710

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm (closed on bank holidays). Find out about call charges at [www.gov.uk/call-charges](http://www.gov.uk/call-charges).

## Complaints

Please send the following information to the pet travel helpline in order to allow an investigation to take place:

- date of incident
- your name and contact details
- full name of pet owner, if different from above
- species of pet
- date and time of travel
- carrier and route
- ticket number (or Airway Bill (AWB) for pets travelling by air). Most, if not all, carriers should be able to retrieve travel details from this information.
- nature of complaint
- any contact with Animal and Plant Health Agency (or other) staff at the time of the incident and if so, with whom and from what office

Whilst we endeavour to investigate all complaints, failure to provide any of the above may delay our investigations or even result in our inability to investigate further.

Routes may change and new ones may be added. Some routes may be irregular and some may only operate during certain times of the year. You are advised to check this and all your other proposed travel arrangements with the transport company, including how they will transport your pet, before booking your trip to the UK as they may have their own additional conditions of travel. These conditions may include a health declaration for your pet. Check the costs, requirements and procedures with your transport company well before you travel.

## **What to do if you suspect that a pet has been illegally imported**

If you suspect that an animal has been imported illegally you should contact your local [Trading Standards Office](#).

If you are in the City of London or Greater London (the 33 Greater London Authorities) you should contact the City of London Animal Health and Welfare Team on 020 8745 7894

<https://www.gov.uk/pet-travel-information-for-pet-owners#routes-and-transport-companies>

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