



The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) allows for limited movement of pets between the UK and some European countries under controlled conditions.

What do I need to take my pet abroad?

If you wish to take your pet abroad with you AND bring it home again you must ensure that you follow all the rules.

The current requirements of the Pet Travel Scheme should be checked on the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel>.

At the time of writing, the requirements of the PETS can be summarised as follows:

- Your pet must be fitted with a permanent form of identification (a microchip).
- Your pet must have received a rabies vaccination. This is NOT carried out as part of the routine vaccination protocol in the UK.
- Until January 2012 your pet must have a blood test to ensure that it has developed protective antibodies following vaccination. This blood test must be taken at least 3 weeks after vaccination and entry into the UK is not permitted until 6 months after this blood test.
- NB If your pet has not yet had a blood test then there is no need to get this done as from January 2012 it will be able to travel without this.
- Your pet must have been issued with a Pet Passport.

You are responsible for ensuring that all the relevant documentation is completed before you travel and for arranging to see a vet abroad before you return to the UK. The cost of meeting all these requirements is your responsibility.

Before you enter the UK your dog's microchip and all relevant documentation will be checked by the transport company. If documentation is not in order your dog will be returned to the country from which it is travelling or be required to undergo 6 months quarantine before being allowed back into the UK.

What happens at immigration?

Make sure you can answer YES to the following before arriving at UK immigration...

- My pet has a microchip.
- My pet's rabies vaccination is up to date.
- Blood test confirms adequate rabies protection (6 months before return travel to the UK - until 1 January 2012).
- We are travelling to an approved country.
- We are travelling by an approved route using an approved carrier.
- I have a health certificate from a vet abroad to confirm treatment for parasites (this entry should be made in the pet certificate).
- I have checked that additional certificates are not required by the country I plan to visit.

Your pet needs a microchip implant?

A microchip is a small implant that your vet will insert under your pet's skin that carries a permanent identification number.

DEFRA do not specify a particular type or brand of microchip to be used.

In Europe, however, particular microchips may be required. It is therefore best to ensure that your pet has an ISO (International Standards Organisation) Standard microchip meeting specifications 11784 or Annex A of ISO Standard 11785, if you plan to take your pet abroad.

Is your pet vaccinated against rabies?

A microchip must be implanted BEFORE the rabies vaccination is given. Rabies boosters must be kept up to date. The length of the waiting period before entry into the UK is 21 days after the vaccination date. If the vaccination is in two parts the 21 days wait will be from the date of the second vaccination. However until January 2012 a blood test must be performed at least 30 days following rabies vaccination. Entry into the UK is not permitted for 6 calendar months following a positive blood test. For more information, visit the DEFRA website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/pet-owners/vaccination/>.



Is your pet protected against rabies?

A pet must not enter the UK under PETS until at least 21 days have passed from the date of rabies vaccination.

Until January 2012 a blood test must be performed to show that the rabies vaccination has been effective in protecting your pet against rabies. This test is usually performed about 1 month after the last rabies vaccination (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/pet-owners/blood-test/>).

Does your dog have the right certificates?

Your vet will examine your dog before you travel to certify that it has a microchip, is up to date with rabies vaccination, and has had a successful blood test. He will then issue your pet with a Pet Passport.

The Pet Passport can only be completed by a specially registered vet. Only vets approved by the government (LVIs) can sign and issue a Pet Passport - so check with your veterinary practice that they have a vet who is able to complete your documentation.

In some instances it may be necessary for your vet to complete a separate certificate to show that your pet meets the health requirements of the countries you are visiting or travelling through. You should contact the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) office or Embassy of the country you are visiting for details of these requirements.

Does your pet normally live in the UK?

Does your pet normally live in the UK and has only visited countries in the following list?

Qualifying EU Countries and Territories:

Austria, Azores, Balearic Islands, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canary Islands, Ceuta, Cyprus (Republic only), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, French Guiana, Germany, Greece, Greenland, Guadeloupe, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madeira, Malta, Martinique, Melilla, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Reunion, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

No preparation or documentation is necessary for the movement of pets directly between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

Pets returning to the UK from an increasing number of additional non-EU countries are eligible to enter the UK under the Pet Travel Scheme. An up-to-date list of these countries can be obtained from the DEFRA website (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/countries/eu-countries/>).

Is your pet travelling by an approved route and using an approved carrier?

*You may **not** bring a pet into the UK from a private boat or plane.*

Your pet may travel to the UK via any qualifying country or countries. It must not have been to any non-qualifying country in the 6 months before entering the UK.

It should be noted that there are no approved routes to the UK from the following PETS countries:

EU countries and territories: Faroe Islands, French Guiana, Greenland, Reunion.

Non-EU countries: Andorra, Aruba, Ascension Island, British Virgin Islands, Chile, Belarus, Bosnia Herzegovina, Fiji, French Polynesia, Grenadines, Guam, Jamaica (which although rabies-free is excluded from PETS by Jamaican law), Liechtenstein, Mayotte, Monaco, Montserrat, New Caledonia, St Helena, St Pierre & Miquelon, St Vincent, San Marino, Taiwan, Trinidad & Tobago, Vanatu, Vatican, Wallis & Futana (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/countries/noneu-countries/>).

The up-to-date list of approved routes and approved carriers should be obtained from the DEFRA website (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/routes/>).

Has your pet been treated for parasites?

Taking your pet abroad



Your pet must be treated against ticks and tapeworms between 1 and 5 days (although it is preferable if treatment takes place between 24-48 hours) before it is checked in for the journey to the UK.

The vet will sign your pet's passport to certify that this treatment has been administered. These treatments should be recorded in sections VI and VII of the EU Pet Passport.

For further information visit: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/pet-owners/parasites/>.

What special provisions are made for guide dogs and hearing dogs?

On certain approved air routes (ie those approved by DEFRA to carry pets into the UK under the Pet Travel Scheme), assistance dogs can travel with their owners in the passenger cabin rather than in the hold as cargo. The up-to-date list of approved routes and carriers can be obtained from the DEFRA website.

Assistance dogs entering the UK under the Pet Travel Scheme must, however, meet all of the rules of the Scheme (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/assistance-dogs/>).

Does your pet have holiday insurance?

Strange as it may seem, holiday insurance is now available for your pet too. This can cover emergency veterinary fees, third party liability, loss of passport and many other eventualities. Insurance is available for 30 days or longer periods. If your pet is already insured ask your insurance company if they offer discounted premiums for travelling.

The DEFRA website contains full details of the Pet Travel Scheme. This should be consulted to check all up-to-date requirements of the scheme .

If you want any other information on health issues concerning your dog please contact Feldon Veterinary Centre on 01926 423161 and we will be happy to advise you.