

The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS)

PART 1:THE RULES

To **enter or re-enter the UK** from other EU countries and a non EU listed country without quarantine a pet must, in this order, be: -

- (i) microchipped,
- (ii) vaccinated against rabies and blood tested,
- (iii) issued with an EU pet passport or an official veterinary certificate and
- (iv) treated against ticks and tapeworms.

These requirements do not apply to pets travelling to the UK from the Republic of Ireland.

Your pet must not have been outside any of the countries listed in Part 3 in the 6 calendar months immediately before travelling to the UK and must enter the UK using an approved transport company and route (see Part 3c).

The six month rule for entering the UK

Your pet may not enter or re-enter the UK under PETS until 6 calendar months have passed from the date that a vet took the blood sample which gave a satisfactory test result. Once a vet has signed the passport and that 6 month period has passed, the document becomes valid for your pet to enter the UK.

This wait is necessary because an animal infected with rabies *before* vaccination would not be protected by the vaccine. Six months is the time needed for most infected animals to display any clinical signs of the disease.

The rules are to protect human and animal health and to reduce the risk of importing rabies into the UK. Animals not meeting all the rules must be licensed into quarantine.

Where PETS procedures can be carried out

Your pet can be fitted with a microchip in any country. Rabies vaccinations, blood sampling and the tick and tapeworm treatment must all be carried out in either the UK or any of the listed countries. The passport is being issued by all EU countries.

When you bring your dog or cat into the UK, you will need either:

- a valid EU pet passport **or**
- a valid official veterinary certificate for pet dogs, cats and ferrets entering the European Community

PART 2: STEP BY STEP PROCEDURES FOR PREPARING YOUR DOG OR CAT

Step 1. The microchip

Your pet must first be fitted with a microchip. We recommend that it meets ISO Standard 11784 or Annex A to ISO Standard 11785. If the microchip does not meet one of these Standards you must provide a reader that can read the microchip number at the time of any inspection.

Ask the person fitting the microchip to check that its number can be read before and after it has been fitted. Get your vet to read the microchip every time you visit.

French law no longer requires animals to be tattooed if they have been microchipped. They can also now be microchipped before being vaccinated and blood tested. A pet can qualify for entry to the UK if its microchip was inserted *after* the vaccination and blood test, provided it was **identifiable** at the time of the **vaccination** and **blood test** by means of an officially-registered tattoo. In such cases the official registration card and EU passport must show both the tattoo number and the microchip number.

Dogs and cats that are identified solely by tattoo do not meet the rules of the Pet Travel Scheme and, therefore, cannot enter the UK.

Step 2. The anti-rabies vaccination

- ***When to vaccinate***

Pets being prepared to enter or re-enter the UK must be at least 3 months old before being vaccinated against rabies. They must normally be vaccinated *after* a microchip has been fitted (see exception above). Get the vet to read the microchip number before the vaccination.

- ***Vaccination record***

When your pet is vaccinated, make sure that the vet accurately records the details below on its vaccination record and passport:

- its date of birth/age (if known)
- the microchip number, date of insertion (if known) and its location in the animal
- the date of vaccination
- the vaccine manufacturer, product name and batch number
- the date by which the booster vaccination must be given

Booster vaccinations

After your pet has been vaccinated and blood tested with a satisfactory result, it will need booster vaccinations. These **must** be given by the 'Valid until' date on the passport or PETS certificate and be recorded on the vaccination record and in section IV of the passport.

If the booster date is missed, your pet will have to be vaccinated and blood tested again. The 6 months rule will apply from the date the new blood sample is taken, provided the result is satisfactory. A government-authorized vet must complete the second box in section V of the passport.

Step 3. The blood test (*only necessary if your pet is entering or re-entering the UK, Sweden or, from a country other than the UK, the Republic of Ireland*)

After being vaccinated, your pet must have a blood test to make sure that the vaccine has worked. Your vet will tell you the best time to do this and will take a blood sample to be analysed at an EU-approved laboratory (see Annex 1). Take your pet's vaccination record with you when the blood sample is taken. Ask your vet to read the microchip and to give you a signed record of the date the sample was taken that accurately shows your pet's microchip number.

A satisfactory blood test result will show that the rabies antibody titre was equal to or more than 0.5IU/ml. Make sure your vet gives you a certified copy of the result, accurately showing the microchip number and the date the sample was taken, and keep it safe.

Your pet requires only one satisfactory blood test and 6 calendar months wait **provided** the subsequent rabies booster vaccinations are given by the required date. See step 2 if the date is missed.

If your pet fails its blood test it must be blood tested again. Your vet will advise if it first needs to be re-vaccinated. The **6 month** rule will apply.

Step 4. Certification

After your pet has passed its blood test you must get either an EU pet passport (for pets in an EU listed country such as France) or an official veterinary certificate (for pets in a non-EU listed country). This will show that your pet been microchipped, vaccinated against rabies and successfully blood tested.

(a) EU pet passports

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

Passports are expected to become available in France from 1 October 2004. The passport may be issued by a government-authorized vet i.e. a vet that holds a *mandat sanitaire* from the French authorities. In most veterinary

practices in France at least one of the vets holds a *mandat sanitaire*; alternatively a list should be on display in every Town Hall (La Mairie).

Make sure that the vet correctly completes sections I to V of the passport.

- ***Using the passport to enter the UK***

The passport will become valid for entry or re-entry to the UK 6 calendar months from the date that the blood sample that gave a satisfactory test result was taken. The passport will remain valid provided your pet is re-vaccinated by the 'valid until' date in section IV (*see Step 2 if the date is missed*).

- ***Replacing the passport***

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

Keep the passport safe because the transport company checking your pet will need to see it. If you lose the passport you may obtain a new one by producing your pet's vaccination record and blood test result, both of which must show your pet's microchip number.

(b) Veterinary certificate

This certificate can be issued by any vet in a **non-EU listed** country. It is headed '*Veterinary certificate for domestic dogs, cats and ferrets entering the European Community for non-commercial movements (Regulation (EC) No 998/2003)*'. The certificate must be a single sheet in English and may also contain a translation in another language. It must be completed in block letters in the language of the EU country of entry or in English.

When you go to get the certificate take your pet, its vaccination record and blood test result. The documents must show your pet's microchip number.

Make sure that the vet completes sections I to V of the certificate correctly and all the details in the following box. If the vet is not an official veterinarian, the certificate must also be dated and stamped by a vet authorised by the competent authority.

Validity of the certificate

You need to be aware of the following. **The certificate will not become valid for entry to the UK for 6 calendar months from the date shown in section V. However, it is only valid for entry to the EU and subsequent travel within the EU for 4 months** from the date it was signed or endorsed, or until the 'valid until' date shown in Part IV, whichever is earlier. You should therefore delay getting the certificate until a month or two before you travel to ensure that it will still be valid when you enter the UK.

- ***Replacing the certificate***

If the certificate expires while you are in the EU, you will need to ask a government-authorised vet to issue a European pet passport (*see fact sheet 3*). In addition to the certificate, you must provide the vet with your pet's original vaccination record and blood test result (or with certified copies). Make sure your pet is revaccinated against rabies by the 'valid until date' is section IV of the certificate (*see step 2 if the date is missed*).

Step 5. Treatment against parasites

Before your pet can enter the UK, it must be treated against ticks and tapeworms. Any vet in the EU can give the treatment. You must not do it yourself. Make sure the vet reads your pet's microchip before treatment.

Your pet must be treated **between 24 and 48 hours before being checked-in** to travel into the UK. This must be done every time your pet travels to the UK.

If you are taking your pet abroad from the UK on a day trip, it will need to be treated in the UK between 24 and 48 hours before it is checked in for the **return** journey.

The treatments are to stop the tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis* and ticks entering the UK. These parasites can carry diseases which can infect other animals and humans causing illness and sometimes death.

Pets must be treated for tapeworms with a product containing *praziquantel*.

Pets must be treated for ticks with a product that has a marketing authorisation in the country of use and is licensed for use against ticks. Tick collars are not acceptable.

- ***Completing the passport/tick and tapeworm documentation***

After the treatment, the vet must fill in sections VI and VII of the EU pet passport or the official veterinary certificate.

The *date* and *time* of treatment, the name of the product used and its manufacturer must be shown. The vet must also stamp and sign the passport. Make sure all these details are correctly recorded before you leave the vet. Mistakes found later at the port or airport will mean delay, may cost you money and your pet might have to go into quarantine.

Other documents you might need to enter the UK

- Cats that have been resident in Australia must be accompanied by a certificate obtained from the Australian Veterinary Authorities confirming that they have not been on a holding where Hendra virus has been confirmed in the 60 days prior to departure.

- Pets travelling by sea need a declaration from the shipping company to confirm that they were kept separate from other animals and did not leave the ship during the voyage.

Keep your documents safe because the transport company checking your pet will need to see them.

PART 3: TRAVELLING TO THE UK

(a) EU countries

UK-resident pets can travel to any of the EU countries shown below and return to the UK under the Scheme. Pets that come from France or any of these countries may also enter the UK under PETS as long as they meet the rules. Pets must not have been outside any of the EU or non-EU listed countries in the 6 calendar months before travelling to the UK.

Austria	Finland	Italy	Poland*
Belgium	France	Latvia*	Portugal ³
Cyprus ¹	Germany	Lithuania*	Slovakia*
Czech Republic*	Greece	Luxembourg	Slovenia*
Denmark	Hungary*	Malta	Spain ⁴
Estonia*	Ireland ²	Netherlands	Sweden

¹ Dogs and cats can only be prepared for PETS in, and enter or re-enter the UK without quarantine from, the Republic of Cyprus. PETS animals travelling from the Turkish republic will have to be licensed into quarantine on arrival in the UK. Until 30 September owners can apply for early release. Animals entering the UK from 1 October 2004 will have to spend 6 months in quarantine. Contact the Helpline for more advice.

² No preparation or documentation is necessary for the movement of pets between the UK and the Republic of Ireland

³ Portugal includes the Azores and Madeira

⁴ Spain includes the Canary Islands, but excludes Ceuta and Melilla.

* Dogs and cats from these countries will not be able to enter or re-enter the UK under PETS until 3 July 2004.

Pets normally resident in the Channel Islands, Isle of Man or the Republic of Ireland can enter the UK under PETS from listed countries if they meet the rules. Pets that have first entered the British Isles under the Scheme can then travel between the UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland without the need for extra documentation. However, you are advised to take your PETS documents with you in case you need to show them.

Owners of pets entering the Channel Islands or the Republic of Ireland from France should contact the appropriate authorities in those countries for advice on approved routes and any other requirements.

(b) Non-EU listed countries

UK-resident pets may, having travelled to any of the non-EU countries shown below, return to the UK under the Scheme. Pets that come from any of these countries may also enter the UK under PETS as long as they meet the rules. Pets must not have been outside any of the EU or non-EU listed countries in the 6 calendar months before travelling to the UK. French DOMs/TOMs are highlighted :-

Andorra	Faroe Islands*	Liechtenstein	St Kitts & Nevis
Antigua & Barbuda	Fiji	Martinique	St Pierre & Miquelon*
Aruba*	French Guyana*	Mauritius	St Vincent
Ascension Island	French Polynesia	Mayotte	San Marino
Australia	Gibraltar	Monaco	Singapore
Bahrain	Greenland*	Montserrat	USA (mainland)
Barbados	Grenadines*	Netherlands Antilles*	Switzerland
Bermuda	Guadeloupe	New Caledonia	Vanuatu
Canada	Hawaii	New Zealand	Vatican
Cayman Islands	Iceland	Norway	Wallis & Fortuna
Croatia*	Jamaica ¹	Réunion	
Falkland Islands	Japan	St Helena	

¹ Jamaican law as at June 2004 prevents their involvement in PETS. Contact the Helpline to check for any change in this situation.

* Dogs and cats from these countries will not be able to enter or re-enter the UK under PETS until 3 July 2004.

The maximum number of all types of pet animals each person may bring into the EU from most non-EU listed countries is 5. This rule does not apply to animals brought from Andorra, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland or the Vatican.

(c) How to travel - use of approved routes

You must use one of the routes and transport companies (see Defra website <http://www.defra.gov.uk> for up-to-date routes) to bring your pet into the UK under the Scheme from another EU country. Pets travelling by ferry or rail must accompany passengers with a vehicle unless otherwise shown on the list. On most air routes, pets will travel as cargo but some allow registered assistance dogs to travel in the cabin. The route list gives details. Some routes are seasonal or irregular so get advice on availability from the transport companies.

If your pet enters the UK with an unapproved transport company or on an unauthorised route, you will need to arrange for it to be licensed into quarantine on arrival with a view to obtaining its early release. If it can be shown that your pet meets all the necessary requirements of the Scheme it can be released within a few working days. See (d) below for more information.

Routes may change and new ones may be added. For the latest information, visit the PETS website or ring the PETS Helpline on .

Check your travel arrangements with the company as they may have their own conditions of travel. Check the costs, requirements and procedures before booking your journey to the UK.

If travelling by air, you may need to arrange with the transport company for the passport to accompany your pet. (You may wish to keep a copy for reference).

(d) Early release from quarantine

Any pet entering the UK which does not meet all the Scheme rules **must** be licensed into quarantine. It may be released from the date it can be shown to comply with the rules. To license your pet into quarantine, you must get an import licence from Defra, SEERAD or DARD as appropriate before it travels to the UK. The licence must accompany your animal when it travels. You will have to meet the costs of quarantine.

(e) Charges on arrival by air

Airlines will usually cover flight and UK handling charges in the ticket price for your animal. Check when you make your booking. No charges are made by Defra or the Devolved Authorities.

PART 4: THE PETS CHECK

Before you board a Eurotunnel train or a ferry travelling to the UK on an approved route, you must present your pet to transport staff so that its microchip and official documentation can be checked. If all is well, your animal will be allowed to board. Guide dogs travelling on Eurostar will be checked on arrival at Waterloo station.

After a satisfactory check, pet owners travelling by Eurotunnel or ferry 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 in the UK.

If your pet fails the check, it will not be allowed to travel until the problem has been resolved unless you arrange for it to enter quarantine in the UK.

For pets travelling by air, the check will be carried out on arrival in the UK by staff at the Animal Reception Centre.

Your pet may be subject to a further official check by Defra or SEERAD after it has been checked by the transport company. This is for quality assurance purposes.

If your pet fails the 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 tick

and 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 Heathrow, this can be done there. In all other cases it must be done at local quarantine premises. If it is treated in quarantine, you will have to seek approval for its early release (part 3d).

For further information, please contact:

Pet Travel Scheme (PETs) Helpline: 00 44 870 241 1710;
email: pets.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk

British Embassy, Agriculture Section: 01 44 51 33 13;
email agfish.PARIX@fco.gov.uk

Annex 1 Approved blood testing laboratories in France

Agence Française De Securite Sanitaire des Aliments Nancy Domaine de Pixerecourt B.P. 9 F-54220 Malzéville FRANCE	Tel: (+33) 3 83 29 89 50 Fax: (+33) 3 83 29 89 59	27 May 1999
Laboratoire Départemental d'Analyses Departement du Pas-des-Calais Parc des Bonnettes 2 rue du Genévrier SP 18 62022 Arras FRANCE	Tel: (+33) 3 21 51 46 54 Fax: (+33) 3 21 71 48 55	6 February 2002
Laboratoire Départemental d'Haute Garrone 76 Chemin Boudou 31140 Launaguet FRANCE	Tel: (+33) 5 62 79 94 20 Fax: (+33) 5 62 79 94 30	1 April 2002
Laboratoire Départemental de la Sarthe 128 rue Beaugé 72018 Le Mans Cedex 2m FRANCE	Tel: (+33) 2 43 39 95 70 Fax: (+33) 2 43 39 95 80	28 June 2001