

# Pet Travel Scheme

With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 there are new procedures that you will need to follow when travelling overseas with your pet under the European Union's Pet Travel Scheme.

## **Living in England, Scotland or Wales**

If you and your pet live in England, Scotland or Wales (Great Britain), the following changes apply for each trip to a country within the Pet Travel Scheme or Northern Ireland:

- You must have your dog or cat microchipped
- Vaccinate your dog or cat against rabies – your pet must be at least 12 weeks old before it can be vaccinated
- Wait 21 days after the primary vaccination before travel
- Visit your vet to get an AHC for your pet, no more than 10 days before travel to the EU

As long as you keep your pet's rabies vaccinations up to date, you will not need to get repeat vaccinations for repeat trips to the EU or Northern Ireland.

## **Getting an animal health certificate (AHC)**

You must take your pet to your vet no more than 10 days before travel to get an AHC. The AHC needs to be signed by an official vet. Check with your vet that they can issue AHCs for pets.

You must take proof of:

- your pet's microchipping date
- your pet's vaccination history

Your pet's AHC will be valid for:

- 10 days after the date of issue for entry into the EU or Northern Ireland
- onward travel within the EU or Northern Ireland for 4 months after the date of issue
- re-entry to Great Britain 4 months after the date of issue

## **Travelling to Finland, Island of Ireland, Norway or Malta**

If you're travelling with your dog directly to Finland, Island of Ireland, Norway or Malta, it must have treatment against tapeworm (*Echinococcus multilocularis*). Your dog will need to receive treatment 1 to 5 days before arriving in any of these countries. Your vet must enter full details on the AHC following treatment.

You will not be able to travel with your pet if you have not completed these steps.

## **Arriving in the European Union**

When arriving in the EU you must use a designated traveller's point of entry to check compliance with all regulations.

Details can be found at: [https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/eu-legislation/non-commercial-non-eu/tpe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/eu-legislation/non-commercial-non-eu/tpe_en)

### **Living in Northern Ireland**

If you live in Northern Ireland the EU Pet Passport is no longer valid, however as an interim measure you can contact your vet to update the pet passport to allow travel. DARERA are in the process of obtaining a new style UK (NI) pet passport.

Further details for pet owners living in Northern Ireland can be found at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/travelling-pets>

### **Additional Questions**

Please do contact your vet if you have any queries relating to any future travel you have planned.

You can also view the guidance from the Government at: [www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-from-1-january-2021](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-from-1-january-2021)