

Post-Brexit pet travel guide for owners

This guidance applies to people travelling to and from **Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales)** with their pet cats, ferrets or dogs, including assistance dogs. This guidance is only for travel of up to 5 pets and for non-commercial reasons.

You need to follow these guidelines to travel between **Great Britain** and **Northern Ireland**, as well as between **Great Britain** and the **EU**. Travel to other non-EU countries is not covered in these guidelines.

Travelling into Great Britain with your pet

An EU pet passport issued in a member state is still valid to **enter** GB.

Before they enter GB, all pets must be:

- [microchipped](#)
- vaccinated against rabies (must be at least 12 weeks old before vaccinated)

Travellers from the EU need to wait 21 days after the first vaccination before travel into GB (not for boosters as long as done before the due date)

Travel from countries not free from tapeworm (*Echinococcus multilocularis*)

Unless entering GB directly from Finland, Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Norway, or Malta, you'll need to take your dog to a vet for an approved tapeworm treatment. You must do this no less than 24 hours and no more than 120 hours (5 days) before entering GB.

Pet travel documents

Your pet must have one of the following documents when entering or returning to GB:

- an EU pet passport issued in the EU (or in GB if issued before 1 January 2021), or a pet passport from another Part 1 listed third country
- the animal health certificate (AHC) issued in GB used to travel to the EU – which you can use to re-enter GB for up to 4 months after it was issued
- a GB pet health certificate (for travel into GB only) – this is needed if your AHC is out of date

Check routes and travel companies

[Check the routes before you travel](#). You must travel using approved routes. Your pet's documents and microchip will be checked when entering GB.

Owners of assistance dogs returning to GB do not have to travel on approved routes. You must notify the point of entry in advance that you're travelling with an assistance dog to ensure the appropriate checks are done.

EU residents travelling to and from the UK

If your pet has an EU passport and their rabies booster is due close to the period of travel, please have the rabies vaccination done in your EU country of residence before travel. **UK vets are no longer authorised to complete rabies vaccination details in an EU passport.**

Help and support

You can contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) if you've got questions or need more information.

Travel to the EU or Northern Ireland

Contact the Pet Travel Scheme helpline if you need more information about pet travel.

Pet Travel Scheme helpline

pettravel@apha.gov.uk

Telephone: 0370 241 1710

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

[Find out about call charges](#)

Travel to a non-EU country

Contact APHA if you need more information about pet travel to a non-EU country.

Animal and Plant Health Agency

exports@apha.gov.uk

Telephone: 03000 200 301

Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm

[Find out about call charges](#)

If you have questions specific to Northern Ireland

Trade Section

Veterinary Service Animal Health Group

1st Floor

Ballykelly House

111 Ballykelly Road

Ballykelly

Limavady

BT49 9HP

Tel: 028 77 442141

E-mail: tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk

Summary

Please read our full guidance before arranging travel with your pet. Further guidance is available from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-and-from-great-britain>

The main change for pet travel out of GB is that **UK pet passports are no longer valid** for travel into the EU. An **Animal Health Certificate** is now required for each trip to the EU, unless your animal already has a valid **non-UK** EU passport, issued in an EU country.

Summary of requirements for travel from GB to the EU or NI:

- Microchip
- Rabies vaccination (at least 21 days before certification, and when the pet was at least 12 weeks of age)
- AHC (Animal Health Certificate) no more than 10 days before travel
 - Or a valid non-UK EU passport
- Tapeworm treatment if travelling to Finland, Northern Ireland, Ireland or Malta (to be given and certified by a veterinarian 24-120 hours before entry to EU/NI)
- Entry must be through a Traveller's Point of Entry

Travelling back to GB

- Microchip
- Rabies vaccination (at least 21 days before certification, and when the pet was at least 12 weeks of age)
- AHC that was used to exit GB can be used to come back within 4 months
 - Or UK passport supplied before 31/12/2020
 - Or EU passport issued in the EU
- Tapeworm treatment unless travelling from Finland, Northern Ireland, Ireland or Malta (to be given and certified in the original AHC or the valid passport by a veterinarian 24-120 hours before entry to GB)
- You must enter GB via an Approved Route (except for assistance dogs)

Please remember, it is the responsibility of the owner (or person(s) transporting the pets) to know the requirements of travel for all countries travelled to and through, not your veterinary practice. We can provide guidance where appropriate, and complete the appointments for rabies vaccinations, certification, tapeworm treatments and any other necessary health checks you require. You must bring all supporting documents and information we request in order to complete these appointments correctly, otherwise we may not be able to provide you with certification.

UK to EU pet travel form

Please complete this form and return to My Pets Vets in advance of your appointment. Please make sure you tick the declaration at the end.

We will need you to bring with you on the day of your appointment proof of rabies vaccination, and proof of identification of the pet. If you have a Pet Passport for your pet that was issued before 31/12/2020 this will suffice. If you do not have a Pet Passport for your pet then please bring your vaccination card that shows the current rabies vaccination, and a document confirming your pet has been microchipped. If you have any problems obtaining these documents please contact:

Pet Travel Scheme helpline: pettravel@apha.gov.uk Telephone: 0370 241 1710 Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm (closed on bank holidays)

Owner's name (title, first name, surname):

Click or tap here to enter text.

Owner's address (house name/number, street, town/city, county, postcode):

Click or tap here to enter text.

Telephone number (only one please, mobile preferred):

Click or tap here to enter text.

Point of entry into the EU (Which EU member state are you entering into FIRST):

Click or tap here to enter text.

Language of point of entry:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Destination country:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Species of pet (dog, cat, or ferret) and how many of each you are travelling with (maximum 5 pets):

Click or tap here to enter text.

For each pet you are travelling with, please provide the following details:

Species: dog/cat/ferret	Sex *	Colour	Breed	Microchip number	Date of birth

* for pet's sex, please state female, female neutered, male or male neutered

Who will be travelling with the pet (please select one, and provide further details if appropriate):

Owner

Person who has authorisation in writing from the owner to travel with the pet

- (name, address, phone number)

Designated carrier contracted by the owner to travel with the pet

- (name, address, phone number)

Tapeworm treatment is required when travelling from Great Britain to EU listed tapeworm free countries including Northern Ireland, Malta, Ireland, and Finland. These dogs must be treated for tapeworm not more than 120 hours and not less than 24 hours before time of entry into one of these countries. Please select from one of the following options (not applicable to cats or ferrets).

I am travelling with my dog to:

Northern Ireland

Norway

Malta

Ireland

Finland

None of the above

NB before returning to Great Britain dogs must be treated for tapeworm not less than 24 hours, not more than 120 hours before time of entry except for return from Northern Ireland, Finland, Ireland, or Malta. You must take your AHC with you for this treatment to a vet in the EU country you are in.

If you are leaving Great Britain on a short trip returning within 120 hours you need to have this treatment done before leaving.

I declare that the information entered above is accurate and correct. By submitting this form, I agree that My Pets Vets (or its agents) will use this information to complete an Animal Health Certificate (AHC) and any errors or omissions in the information I have provided may invalidate this AHC. Any invalidation of an AHC caused by errors or omissions in this form is entirely at my own risk.

Pet Travel to Europe

From the 1st January 2021, the UK's status under the EU Pet Travel Scheme changed, meaning that people travelling from Great Britain to the EU and Northern Ireland with their pets including assistance dogs will need to follow new requirements.

The main difference is that UK issued Pet Passports are no longer valid for travel to the EU and Northern Ireland. Instead, an Animal Health Certificate (AHC) will need to be issued for every animal for every journey.

The following steps must be followed before an AHC can be issued (the first 4 are the same as the requirements for a Pet Passport):

1. Ensure that your dog, cat or ferret is microchipped.
2. Ensure that your dog, cat or ferret is vaccinated against rabies – they must be at least 12 weeks old before they can be vaccinated.
3. Wait 21 days after the primary vaccination before they can have the AHC form.
4. Dogs must be treated against tapeworm 24-120 hours before landing, if they are travelling to a tapeworm free country.
5. Visit their vet to get an AHC for their pet, no more than 10 days before travel to the EU. Contact us 2-3 weeks before this appointment is required.

Pets need to enter the EU through a travellers' point of entry (TPE), which includes all the major French ports such as Calais, Caen and Dunkirk.

The requirements to travel to Northern Ireland are still in discussion, currently no forms are required. This may change so we advise that you contact DEFRA prior to travel. There will be no change to the current health preparations or documents for pets entering Great Britain from the EU or Northern Ireland.

It is the owner's responsibility (not the vet practice) to check the rules of the country they are travelling to for any additional restrictions or requirements before they travel – the number of countries involved and the constantly changing rules means that it is not practical for the practice to keep up to date with all of this information.

Getting an AHC:

Please contact the practice at least 2 weeks before you travel – the AHC needs to be completed no more than 10 days before travel and we will need to put aside the equivalent of 4 normal appointment slots to prepare and check the paperwork, perform the clinical examination and provide any treatments required, and then check and double check (and probably triple check – we don't want you stranded anywhere!) the paperwork before signing it all off in the very particular way required. We are unable to complete AHCs at the weekend.

AHCs can only be completed by veterinary surgeons who have completed an additional qualification, OCQ(V) – CA, to become an 'Official Veterinarian' and therefore permitted to carry out pet export work on behalf of the government. Official Veterinarians need to revalidate this qualification every 4 years.

The cost of the practice completing an AHC is £210 for the first pet and £90 for subsequent pets travelling together. Please note that this is the cost for every trip as a new AHC will need to be completed each time.

An AHC will be valid for travel back into the UK, and onward travel within the EU, for 4 months' after it was issued.

If the veterinary practice completing the AHC is not the practice that implanted your pet's microchip and/or carried out the rabies vaccination, then you must provide the vet with proof of your pet's microchipping date and vaccination history. Microchip registration documentation and a valid rabies vaccination certificate would be appropriate proof. If these are not provided then we will not be able to complete the AHC which may impact on your travel plans if you are then unable to obtain this information in time to be able to rearrange your appointment. Please speak to the practice in plenty of time if you are unsure whether you have sufficient proof.

Please note that you do not need an AHC for travel to the EU if you have a Pet Passport issued in an EU country or Northern Ireland BUT a UK qualified vet is not permitted to make any changes or entries in these passports.

An AHC cannot be issued for commercial imports and exports; in these situations, an Export Health Certificate (EHC) is required – please refer to Centre for International Trade (Carlisle) for more information. We are unable to provide any export health certificates.