



GENERAL GUIDANCE REGARDING THE TRAVEL & EXPORT OF PETS

Before undertaking the movement of a pet abroad, we recommend that you carefully consider the journey your pet will need to undertake and the requirements you need to meet, as this can be a stressful and complex process. You are required to provide the destination country with official statements and assurances relating to your pet and specific tests and treatments may need to be proven. This is designed to prevent the importation and spread of animal disease. Each country has different requirements, and you as the pet owner/exporter are responsible for checking what is needed with the relevant authorities and ensuring you comply. Some countries will have additional restrictions/requirements for certain breeds.

>For the non-commercial movement of dogs, cats and ferrets from Great Britain (GB) to the EU

Apply for an **Animal Health Certificate (AHC)**, which is single-use and valid for 4 months within the EU.

>For travel lasting more than 4 months, or the permanent export/import of pets, commercial movement, movement for breeding purposes, as well as movement outside of the European Union

An AHC may suffice within the EU, but you still need to check with the authorities, and for travel outside the EU, you are likely to need to apply for an **Export Health Certificate**.

>For travel to Northern Ireland ONLY (with NO onward travel from NI to Eire or any other EU country)

Register for a **Pet Travel Document (PTD)**, which lasts for as long as you own your pet.

ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE:

Since 2021, if you wish to take your pet to the EU, you need an Animal Health Certificate (AHC) issued by a veterinary surgeon who has obtained the Official Veterinarian (OV) qualification. For repeat trips, a new AHC is needed each time. Before travel, owners of cats/dogs/ferrets must (in this order):



- Identify the pet with a microchip
- Vaccinate their pet against rabies (minimum age 12 weeks) and repeat at least every 3 years
- Wait at least 22 days from the date of first rabies vaccination before leaving Great Britain (for example, if a rabies vaccine is given on Tuesday 12 July, the AHC can be issued from Wednesday 3rd August)
- Arrange an appointment with an OV to obtain an AHC Certificate no more than 10 days before travel (this will be valid for only 10 days from the date of issue, and is valid for onward travel within the EU for up to 4 months after the date of issue, as well as for re-entry to Great Britain)
- *If you are travelling to Finland, Eire, Norway or Malta, your dog must also be treated by an OV for tapeworm 1-5 days before your arrival in that country, and the OV must document this on the AHC*

You must enter the EU through a designated “travellers’ point of entry” (TPE), where you will need to present your pet’s original AHC along with proof of your pet’s microchip, rabies vaccination and tapeworm treatment (if required). You must check the rules of the country you are travelling to for any additional requirements or restrictions before you travel. On return to Great Britain from EU:

- Dogs must be treated by a veterinary surgeon for tapeworm, not more than 120hrs (5days) but not less than 24hrs, before the time of scheduled (re-)entry into Great Britain, and this be documented by the veterinary surgeon (unless travelling from Finland, Eire, Norway or Malta)
- You must travel via an approved route (unless travelling from Eire, Isle of Man or other UK countries)
- You must carry your original AHC for the authorities to check



The above requirements are primarily designed to protect Great Britain from Rabies – they do NOT protect your pet from all the diseases they may be at risk of contracting abroad. We recommend that prior to travel, you treat your pet to prevent parasites such as ticks, sandflies and heartworm, which are not commonly found in Great Britain, but are prevalent in many other countries and can cause serious disease in your pet and also potentially in people. Please ask our vets how you can best protect your pet and your family before you travel abroad.

Government website for pet travel abroad: <https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad/help-and-support>

Pet travel helpline: 03000 200 301 email: pettravel@apha.gov.uk

Export Office: 03000 200 301 email: exports@apha.gov.uk

For travel to Northern Ireland ONLY: www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad/travelling-to-northern-ireland

EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE:

This is required for the permanent export/import of pets, commercial movement and movement for breeding purposes if the destination country is outside the European Union. Certification is issued by “Animal Health”, which is part of DEFRA. It is your responsibility as the pet owner/exporter, to contact both the authorities here (see contact details above) and also the official veterinary department of the importing country, to ensure you comply with all requirements, as some require Import Permits and additional tests and treatments with specific timings - every country is different.

Animal Health will provide you with specimen copies of the Export Health Certificate and support documents, and it is essential that you read these thoroughly, and that you book in for any tests and treatments required in line with the information you receive. We strongly recommend you consider the use of a specialist pet travel company with the expertise to oversee every step of the export process, from booking flights and providing containers, to ensuring tests and treatments are given at the appropriate times and all the correct paperwork is in place.

When you apply for an Export Health Certificate you will be asked to nominate an Official Veterinarian (OV), who will be required to certify the EHC. All the vets at Broad Lane Vets are fully-qualified registered Veterinary Surgeons who have undertaken OV training to specifically authorise them to carry out export work, and we recommend you book a consultation with one of our vets at the earliest opportunity to examine the specimen documents, discuss the requirements and enable the scheduling of any tests. Our vet, in their capacity as an OV, will carry out the examination, inspection, testing, sampling and treatment of your pet in accordance with Animal Health’s instructions and the requirements of the EHC and any notes for guidance or supporting documentation. This OV work is of a statutory nature, involving official tasks being performed on behalf of the UK government, and the OV will only be able to certify those matters within their knowledge. Our vets take no responsibility for other aspects of the export, which are the exporter’s responsibility.