



PET TRAVEL SCHEME (PETS) – OVERVIEW INFORMATION FOR PET OWNERS

The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) is the system that allows pet dogs, cats and ferrets from certain countries to enter the UK without quarantine as long as they meet the rules. It also means that people in the UK can take their dogs, cats and ferrets to certain countries, and return with them to the UK, without the need for quarantine. The rules are to keep the UK free from rabies and certain other diseases. This is to protect human and animal health.



Before travelling, cats/dogs/ferrets must meet all the rules of the Pet Travel Scheme, as follows (in this order):

- Identified with a microchip
- Vaccinated against rabies (minimum age 12 weeks)
- Issued with an EU pet passport
- Waited 21 days from the date of rabies vaccination before leaving the UK

IMPORTANT: There may soon be ADDITIONAL requirements due to Brexit – see below

- **Dogs** must be treated by a veterinary surgeon against tapeworms, not more than 120hrs (5days) but not less than 24hrs, before the time of scheduled (re-)entry into the UK, and this be recorded in the pet passport.
- Pets must travel via an authorised sea, air or rail route. Only certain approved transport companies may be used to bring cats, dogs and ferrets into the UK.
- Rabies vaccination boosters will be required every 1, 2 or 3 years; please check your pet's passport. It is your responsibility to ensure you keep your pet's rabies vaccinations up to date. Should they lapse, it may be necessary to re-vaccinate, issue a new passport and wait 21 days before travelling overseas.

The Pet Travel Scheme is designed to protect the UK from Rabies – it does 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 other parasites and infections such as **ticks, sandflies** and **heartworm**, which are not commonly found in the UK, but which are prevalent in many other countries and can cause serious disease in your pet and also potentially in people. Please book an appointment with one of our vets to discuss how you can best protect your pet and your family before you travel abroad.

The permanent export of pets abroad often requires that the PETS conditions are met, and there may be additional specific requirements that need to be followed (contact the Export Office for advice). However if there is any chance that the pet will be returning to the UK, it is advisable that the requirements of the Pet Travel Scheme are fulfilled, otherwise the pet will need to be quarantined.

****NB. Due to uncertainty over Brexit, we strongly recommend that you consider booking-in and paying for a blood test for rabies serology, 30 days or more AFTER your pet's rabies vaccination. We have been advised by the government that this may be required as part of the Pet Travel Scheme requirements going forwards. The 21 day wait before travel may also increase, and it could be as long as 3 months after the blood test (assuming the test result is good). You must please phone us in advance if you wish to book an appointment for your pet to have the blood test, with the correct timing.****

Defra is the government department in the UK responsible for the Pet Travel Scheme and the export of animals. They can provide further information for pet owners wishing to travel abroad.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad/overview>

PETS Helpline: **0370 241 1710** email: pettravel@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk

Export Office: 01228 403600 email: petexports.carlisle@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk

Please also check with the authorities of your destination country, as some have restrictions/requirements for certain breeds.