



## 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. The rules changed from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 as outlined below:



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
- Issued with an EU pet passport
- Treated against tapeworms not more than 120hrs (5days) and not less than 24hrs before the time of your scheduled (re-)entry into the UK
- Return to the UK must not be undertaken until at least 21days have passed since the date of the rabies vaccination. On return to the UK, the pet must enter 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 2 or 3 years; please check your pet's passport.

In addition, we recommend that prior to travel, you treat your pet to prevent other parasites and infections such as ticks and heartworm, which are not commonly found in the UK, but 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.

(There are no requirements for dogs/cats/ferrets travelling directly between the UK and Republic of Ireland.)

The permanent export of pets abroad does not always require that the PETS conditions are met, though there will be other specific requirements that need to be followed (contact the local Defra 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.

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

Website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk>

PETS Helpline: **0870 241 1710**

Defra Export Office: 01228 403600 email: [catanddogexports.carlisle@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:catanddogexports.carlisle@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk)