



PET PASSPORTS

The PETS travel scheme allows domestic dogs and cats to accompany their owners abroad to certain countries and return to the UK without undergoing quarantine. The qualifying countries include member states of the EEC, USA and Canada.

Pet Travel rules will change from 1st January 2012 when the UK brings their procedures into line with the European Union. Pets from the EU and listed non-EU countries will no longer require a blood test and will only have to wait 21 days before travel. It is important you still check the country's individual requirements before travelling.

Before 1st January 2012

To obtain a PETS passport, the following conditions must be met. It is advised that you start this protocol at least 8 months before travelling.

1. The animal must be implanted with a microchip. This is always the first step but may be combined with a rabies vaccination appointment.
2. The animal must be vaccinated against rabies. A single vaccination is administered from three calendar months of age. Dogs and cats require booster vaccinations every three years. **Please check the requirements of the individual countries you are travelling to, if prolonged stays are planned. ie France requires an annual booster.**
3. A blood test must be taken 21 days after the rabies vaccination. This is submitted to the government laboratory to ensure that the vaccination has generated sufficient antibodies to provide immunity.
4. Once a satisfactory blood test result is received a PETS passport is issued, at an appointment with an LVI veterinary surgeon, with the pet present to verify the microchip number.
5. Although a pet is able to travel from the UK 21 days after a Rabies vaccination, the six month rule then applies for re-entering the UK. This becomes valid six months from the date of a satisfactory antibody blood test. **This means that the animal cannot re-enter the UK prior to this date. For example if a successful blood sample is taken on 1 January, the pet can enter the UK from 1 July.**
6. It is important to discuss with your vet the risk of exposure to diseases abroad such as Leishmaniasis, transmitted by Sand flies, Babesiosis and Ehrlichiosis transmitted by ticks. A preventative plan should be put in place which your veterinary surgeon can assist you with.

7. Animals require treatment from a local vet for fleas and worms twenty four to forty eight hours prior to re-entering the UK. Please contact your shipping agent for details of local vets and any transport requirements they may have.
8. It is the pet owners own responsibility to ensure that passports are up to date and the appropriate tick and tapeworm treatment given. We advise checking with DEFRA that there are no additional requirements/certification of countries that you plan to visit.

REMEMBER TO HAVE YOUR RABIES BOOSTER GIVEN BEFORE THE “VALID UNTIL” DATE, AS FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN THE RABIES ANTIBODY SEROLOGY BEING RE-TESTED.

After 1st January 2012

It will soon be much easier to travel abroad with your pet. Defra has announced that from 1st January 2012 the rules for pets (dogs, cats and ferrets) entering or re-entering the UK under the Pet Travel Scheme will change.

These changes are being made to bring the UK into line with the EU pet movement scheme.

Dogs, cats and pet ferrets entering or re-entering the UK from an EU and certain listed non-EU countries (eg USA and Australia) must:

- Be microchipped
- Be vaccinated against rabies
- Have waited 21 days after vaccination before entering
- Have an EU pet passport

The current requirement to perform a blood test 21 days after vaccination followed by a six month waiting period will no longer be required.

There will also no longer be a requirement for pets to be treated for ticks before their arrival in the UK although we would strongly recommend that you continue to do so for the health of your pets.

The UK is still in discussion with the EU about continued controls on tapeworms for pets.

Please click on the link below for more information or contact your local branch of Cinque Ports Veterinary Associates.

DEFRA: Website: www.defra.gov.uk/pets Tel: 08702 411710

