



Checklist for The Pet Travel Scheme

For Dogs, Cats and Ferrets returning to the UK from E.U. countries, and from certain listed non-EU countries.

N.B. Pets travelling to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland do not currently need to comply with PETS regulations

1. Microchipping

Your pet needs to be microchipped before Rabies vaccination. The microchip needs to be ISO standard.

2. Rabies vaccination

A rabies vaccine must be given at least 21 days before leaving the UK. Your pet needs to be at least 3 months old when vaccinated. Vaccination can be completed by a single injection, though we recommend two injections to ensure solid protection. For UK purposes the Rabies vaccination must be boosted every 3 years. (some countries, or even campsites, may require annual Rabies vaccination). If in any doubt vaccinate annually.

3. Documentation - your EU Pet's Passport

You will need a Pet's Passport completed correctly by your veterinary surgeon.

4. Transport Arrange for your pet to travel with an approved transport company on an authorised route.

5. Tapeworm treatment given by a vet (for Echinococcus) with an approved medication before re-entry to the UK (dogs only)

Before returning to the UK your pet must be given special tapeworm treatment (praziquantel) more than 24hrs and less than 5 days before scheduled arrival time in the UK. The treatment must be given by a vet, details added to your Pet's Passport, and signed by the vet. (You will need to find a vet practice on your travels).

Notes

- Maximum of 5 animals may travel with one owner.
- If staying abroad for more than a few weeks: Owners must check residency requirements, i.e. after 3mo. in France, registration, ISO standard microchip, and annual Rabies vaccination is required.

For further action recommended to protect your pet whilst abroad see inside

Visit our website: www.vet-healthcentre.co.uk



Taking Your Pet Abroad

Pets Travel Scheme -PETS

The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS)

allows you to take your pets to other E.U. countries (and certain other listed countries), and return with them to the UK without the need for quarantine provided you comply with certain rules.

Animals which do not meet all the rules may have to be placed into quarantine for up to six months.

For export of a dog or cat (e.g. for sale)

Regulations vary from country to country. Check the requirements with DEFRA

(Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) at

www.defra.gov.uk

Before you begin the "PETS" process ask yourself:-



1. Will my pet cope well with travelling and hot climates?
2. Do I understand that there is a risk of my pet contracting serious infectious diseases not found in the UK.? (see inside for disease prevention)
3. Do I understand that if my pet becomes unwell overseas I might not be allowed to bring him back until he is recovered.
4. Do I understand that a disease outbreak overseas might cause restriction (such as quarantine) to be placed on all returning pets.
5. Am I prepared for the costs, work and time involved in fulfilling the requirements of the PETS Travel Scheme?

N.B. The PETS scheme is concerned with protecting human health, not your pet's health. You need to take steps to safeguard your pet when travelling abroad. (See Inside)

N.B. These notes are intended as a guide only. Daisy Street Veterinary Centre will not be held responsible for any difficulties arising from information in this leaflet.

Legal requirements may change at any time.

Before you travel always check with the DEFRA website - www.defra.gov.uk - or phone the DEFRA Helpline on 08702 411 710

Daisy Street Veterinary Centre, Daisy St. Blackburn.

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Disease Risks for Dogs and Cats travelling to Europe

Some of these diseases are also a risk to humans.

Rabies - is a serious viral disease that can affect all mammals including humans. It is transmitted by a bite from an infected animal. Once symptoms have appeared (which can be 3 to 8 weeks after a bite), it is nearly always fatal. Rabies symptoms vary greatly: behaviour changes, aggression, seizures, foaming at the mouth etc. Unfortunately, there is no cure or effective treatment. Humans exposed to rabies need to undergo a regimen called postexposure prophylaxis (PEP), a series of injections that include immune globulin and rabies vaccine. However, PEP is not effective in humans after symptoms are noted and is almost always fatal once the signs appear. Prevention by vaccination is effective in animals and humans. If you or your pet are bitten seek medical advice immediately.

Echinococcus multilocularis – a taenid tapeworm endemic in much of Europe from central France eastwards. Foxes are the main host with voles and other small rodents as intermediate hosts. Dogs are easily infected. The adult parasite produces no clinical signs in the dog but can cause a potentially fatal condition in humans. In endemic areas it is recommended that dogs are wormed monthly with praziquantal. Dogs must be treated before re-entry to the UK to prevent the parasite entering the country..

Leishmaniasis - is an infectious and sometimes fatal disease caused by a protozoan parasite similar to malaria, common in Mediterranean coastal areas. Transmitted by blood-sucking sandflies (named because of their colour). Sandflies can be found in woodland and in old buildings, and are active from May to October mainly at dusk and dawn. Prevention involves avoiding sandflies and using insect repellents (discuss this with the vet). A moderately effective vaccine is now available (involves a course of three injections). Advantix and Advocate can reduce the risk of sandfly bites.

**For more info on disease risks abroad go to
www.eccapuk.org.uk**

Heartworm (Dirofilaria immitis) - a nematode worm endemic in Mediterranean areas. Dogs are the prime host. Worms are spread by mosquitoes during feeding. Larvae migrate in the blood to the lungs and develop into adult worms. Use Advantix & Advocate as below.

Babesia, Erlichiosis, Lyme Disease (Borrelia burgdorferi), and Hepatozoon. These are all nasty blood parasites that are spread by ticks. Ticks are normally found in pasture and woodland but the brown dog tick (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*) can be found in homes and kennels. Effective tick treatments need to be applied before travel, then re-applied monthly; more frequently if the dog spends time in water which can reduce the effectiveness of the insecticide. Use Advantix & Advocate as below.

We recommend:

- 1) Advocate & Advantix in combination as follows: Start Advocate 1 month before you travel and continue to apply monthly. Use Advantage 1 week before travel and apply every 2 weeks
- 2) Regular worming with Milbemax
- 3) consider Leishmaniasis vaccination

In a nutshell ... you need to ...

1. Keep your pet's Rabies vaccination up to date and make sure your Pet Passport is completed. Rabies vaccination needs a booster every 3 years. (some countries may require it annually). Don't rely on a vet's reminder - make sure you have the booster vaccine on time.
2. Check the microchip reads correctly. Ask the vet or nurse to scan your pet's microchip when you visit the surgery.
3. Every time you travel check with DEFRA that the regulations haven't changed. Any new disease threat may influence the PETS regulations.
4. Keep your pet healthy! Pets are not permitted to travel if unwell. Keep up with regular Flea and Tick prevention and regular worm with an approved medication. Use a product that also controls sandflies and mosquitoes, ideally Advantix & Advocate.

Keep up with flea and worm treatments