



# Pet travel scheme (PETS)

The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) is the process which enables free movement of cats and dogs around the European Union. It is designed to prevent the spread of various disease (rabies, tick borne disease, and tapeworm) across international borders within the EU. Recent changes to the scheme **(marked in red in this leaflet)** have made the process much quicker, simpler, and cheaper.



## How do I get a pet passport?

The first step required for the pet passport is **microchipping**. This provides a permanent means of identification for pets enrolled in the pet passport scheme

Following microchipping, pets need a **rabies vaccination**. Regular rabies boosters are necessary to keep the passport up to date.

After microchipping and rabies vaccinations, a pet passport can be issued. Pets are eligible to travel to mainland Europe twenty one days after rabies vaccination.

## How long does it take?

Microchipping and rabies vaccination can be carried out on the same day. Pets can therefore travel twenty one days after starting the pet passport process.

**In January 2012, the requirement for the blood test following vaccination, and the six months delay in travel, were removed from the pet passport scheme.**



Although the PETS scheme has been extended to include some countries outside the European Union the requirements for these countries may be slightly different, and so specific advice for non-EU countries should be sought from the department for the environment, farming, and rural affairs (DEFRA).



### What routes can I use?



Most of the ferry companies will take pets, but they will have to stay in your car for the journey.



Pets can also be taken on the channel tunnel



Some airlines take pets, but you will have to check which routes are available

### Pet Passport Check List

- Microchip
- Rabies vaccination
- Issue pet passport
- Find a vet abroad to provide tapeworm treatment.
- Go on holiday

**In January 2012 the requirement for a blood test after the rabies vaccination was removed.**

### Anything else I need to do?

Before you return to the UK, you will need to get your pet treated against tick and tapeworm by a registered vet. **This must be done 24 to 120 hours (one to five days) before you embark on your return transport (train or ferry).**

**The requirement for tick treatment was removed at the beginning of 2012. However tick treatment is still strongly recommended while you are abroad.**



The pet passport scheme is designed to prevent diseases being brought back into the UK. It does NOT protect your pet from all the diseases it may be exposed to when you are abroad. For information on disease prevention while abroad, see our separate fact sheet “**Travelling with your pet**”.

**For further information on the pet passport scheme, please contact the practice.**