

GUIDE TO TRAVELLING WITH YOUR PET TO THE EU

This is intended as a general guide only and owners should always refer to the website

[Taking your pet dog, cat or ferret abroad: Overview - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad)
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Protecting your pet

These rules are designed to prevent spread of disease between countries, but it is important to protect your pet against other diseases you may encounter when travelling. The further south you are in Europe, the greater the risk.

Diseases you may encounter abroad:

1. Tick borne diseases such as Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis and Hepatozoonosis
2. Leishmaniasis – spread by sandflies
3. Heartworm – spread by mosquitos

There a number of measures you can take to protect your pet:

1. Make sure your pet has been given a product that kills ticks as quickly as possible after attachment. This prevents the spread of most disease. Avoid known tick affected habitats such as wooded areas and places where there are livestock. Ehrlichia can be spread very quickly so a tick repellent is recommended too.
2. In areas where sand flies are prevalent, keep animals indoors from one hour before dusk until one hour after sunrise. Use insecticides to control flies inside. Use a sandfly repellent product on your pet.
3. Avoid mosquito infested areas.

Travel to Europe

You will need an Animal Health Certificate (AHC) for each journey to Europe including N Ireland. The AHC is valid for 4 months ongoing travel within Europe. **The cost of the AHC starts from £275.**

- AHCs can be given to up to 5 dogs, cats and ferrets only
- You must have your dog, cat or ferret microchipped.



- Vaccinate your dog, cat or ferret against rabies - your pet must be at least 12 weeks old before it can be vaccinated.
- You must wait 22 days before travel after the primary rabies vaccination. If the vaccinations are kept up to date you only need to wait the first time. If your vaccine has run out you will need to redo and wait 22 days again.
- An AHC must be signed by an official veterinary surgeon (OVS) no more than 10 days before travel.
- The person travelling with the pet will need to attend to fill in the AHC as they need to sign a declaration form.
- Dogs travelling from the UK to EU-listed tapeworm-free countries (Finland, Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Norway and Malta) must be treated for tapeworm 24 to 120 hours (one to five days) before arriving in one of those countries. We need to sign for this on the AHC so clients travelling to these countries need to book the AHC within this timeframe.
- On arrival in the EU, travellers with pets will need to enter through a designated travellers' point of entry where you may need to show proof of your pet's health checks and documentation.

There are online vet services that will provide AHCs on route to the ports.

IF YOU HAVE A PET PASSPORT

If you live in England, Scotland or Wales you should not use a pet passport (even if it was issued in the EU). If you use a pet passport, your pet may be refused entry into the EU.

You can use a pet passport if you live in Northern Ireland. Find out what you need to do in the [DAERA guidance](#)

Re-entry to the UK

One of the following documents must be presented when returning to Great Britain:

EU Pet Passports are no longer valid for entry to England, Scotland or Wales

- The AHC issued in Great Britain used to travel to the EU (which you can use up to 4 months after it was issued)
- UK pet health certificate (for travel into the UK only)
- Tapeworm treatment will be needed on re-entry (>24 and <120 hours before entry) This must be recorded in the passport or on the AHC exceptions are Finland, Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Norway and Malta.

Booking appointments

The AHC's will involve a lot of paperwork for us. Only some vets (OVS) can complete the forms and we need to allow 30 minutes. Therefore, please try to plan and book early. If not, we cannot guarantee being able to book it in the time period you need as slots are limited. Please fill in the pre-appointment form below and return it to us ahead of your appointment to allow us to start your AHC.

Name of pet(s)	1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____ 5) _____
Name of person who will be travelling with pet (this person must attend the AHC appointment)	
Address	
Telephone number	
Country of first entry to EU	
Date of travel	
Breed of pet	
Colour of pet	
Date of birth of pet	
Microchip number	
Date of rabies vaccination (if known)	

Please bring any vaccination cards/passport with details of rabies vaccination to your appointment