

## **The Pet Travel Scheme.**

The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) allows us to take our pets on holiday with us to other EU countries without having to put them in quarantine upon returning home.

From 29<sup>th</sup> December 2014 changes were made to the travel scheme. The changes were made to strengthen enforcement across the EU, increase the levels of compliance and improve the security and traceability of the pet passport.

The main requirements of the scheme have stayed the same for travelling pets. Currently the following applies for pets entering or re-entering the UK from EU countries:

- Microchipping – this must be done before it receives the rabies vaccination.
- Vaccination against rabies
- A pet passport issued by an authorised vet
- A waiting period after the primary vaccination and prior to travel – **21 days**
- A treatment for tapeworm 24-120 hours (1-5 days) before entering the UK.

Make sure that you have had the requirements carried out in the correct order and that your pet's documents are correctly completed. If you do not your pet may not be able to enter the country or may have to go into quarantine on arrival. The whole process can take much longer than you think so leave enough time for the completion of your pet's passport before you leave for your holiday.

As an owner it is your responsibility to find out about entry requirements for your pet in to the country of destination. For pets travelling to the UK from non-EU countries there may be additional requirements.

For more information contact us or visit [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

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## **Kennel Cough**

Kennel cough or infectious laryngotracheitis as it is properly known is an upper respiratory infection affecting dogs. Kennel cough is so named as the infection can spread quickly among dogs in close quarters like a kennel or an animal shelter.

The disease is spread via airborne droplets which are produced by sneezing, coughing and through contact with contaminated surfaces.

Symptoms begin after an incubation period of 5-7 days post exposure. The usual symptoms can include a dry, harsh cough, snorting, runny noses, gagging and sometime sneezing. Depending on the severity, the signs can last from a few days to several weeks.

It is possible to vaccinate against kennel cough although the vaccination is not a fail-safe preventative. As with the flu jab in people a vaccinated dog can still contract mutated strains. The vaccination is in addition to the annual booster injection and needs to be administered at least 7-10days prior to going in to kennels. The vaccination is given intranasally i.e. up the nose, and last for 12 months.

## Ticks

### What are Ticks?

Ticks are Arachnids, they have 8 legs so are not insects! They are related to spiders, mites and scorpions.

Ticks have 4 stages in their life cycle.

- Egg
- Larva
- Nymph
- Adult male/female



### Where are ticks found?

Ticks can be found in woodlands, moors and parks and gardens. They like to live in places with deep vegetation and lots of small animals and birds so they can feed off them.

### How do Ticks feed?

A tick has to feed to be able to grow from one stage to the next. It climbs up a leaf or stalk then waits for an animal to brush past. The tick's front legs have hooks on them so they can hang on for dear life! The mouth of the tick is a hypostome – like a hollow needle. It sticks into the animal's skin and slowly drinks its blood, like drinking through a straw.

It will stay attached for several days then will drop off when it has finished feeding. When fully engorged the adults body will become stretched and full of blood, then they are about the size of a pea. It will then burrow into the ground to change into the next stage of its life.

### How do you remove a tick?

The best way is to use a tick removing tool called an O'tom tick remover. Do not try to remove a tick with your fingers, you may squeeze the contents of the tick back into your pet which is more likely to make them ill.

If in doubt come and see our nurses and we can remove it for you.

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## Contact us.

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