



71 Canal Street  
PAISLEY PA1 2HP  
Tel: 0141-887 4111  
Fax: 0141-887 0813

54 Murdieston Street  
GREENOCK PA15 4HU  
Tel: 01475 721155  
Fax: 01475 787511

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## **EXPORTING YOUR PET**

The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) has been in place for over ten years, allowing re-entry, without quarantine, of pets to the UK as well as allowing entry of animals originating from outside the UK, provided certain criteria are met. The intention of PETS is to allow free movement of dogs, cats and ferrets to European countries, eliminating the need for an import/export certificates. Other countries still require a more specific export certificate to be completed.

For full advice on the current import requirements of any country, you are advised to contact DEFRA.

Email: [CatandDogExports.Carlisle@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CatandDogExports.Carlisle@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01228 403600

## **TRAVEL AFTER 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2012**

For animals that do not currently hold a pet passport, the rules for entry will depend on which country they are returning or being imported from.

### 1. Entry to the UK from the EU and non-listed EU countries

A list of the appropriate countries can be found at

[www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/countries/eu-countries](http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/countries/eu-countries)

and

[www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/countries/noneu-countries](http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/countries/noneu-countries)

Your pet will require a health check, implantation of a microchip in the scruff of the neck and then a rabies vaccination, after which the Pet Travel documentation can be issued.

Re-entry to the UK cannot be less than 21 days after the rabies vaccination has been administered and must be with an approved transport company on an authorised route.

Rabies boosters must be kept up to date.

## 2. Entry to the UK from unlisted non-EU countries

A list of the appropriate countries can be found at

[www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/countries/unlisted-countries](http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/countries/unlisted-countries)

Your pet first needs to have a health check, then implantation of a microchip and vaccination against rabies.

At least **30 days** after vaccination and **three** months before travelling to the UK (or another member state), a blood sample has to be taken by an authorised veterinary surgeon and sent to an authorised laboratory. Provided the antibody titre is equal to or greater than 0.5IU/ml, entry to the UK is permitted provided your animal is accompanied by a certificate issued by an official veterinary surgeon to that effect. Animals which have been blood sampled 30 days after vaccination and show a positive titration result **before** leaving the UK (or another member state) can re-enter the UK without the three month wait.

Pets travelling to an unlisted third country that have been identified, vaccinated and blood sampled 30 days after vaccination and can show a positive titration result before leaving the UK (or other Member State) may re-enter the UK without having to meet the 3 month waiting period.

The vaccination, blood sample and positive titration result must be recorded on the pet passport which is required to be shown on re-entry into the EU.

It is the responsibility of the owner to ensure that all requirements for entry to the UK are fulfilled prior to presentation at Border Control.

Further information can be found on DEFRA's web-site:

[www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/pet-owners](http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/pet-owners)

After 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012, compulsory treatment against ticks is no longer required. Treatment for tapeworms should be given by a vet and recorded in the Passport between **one and five days** before entry to the UK (as well as Ireland, Finland and Malta). Your pet, however, may be exposed to diseases abroad which it would not encounter in the UK, so we advise that preventative treatment is in place **before** reaching the destination country. This should include administration of products that protect against ticks, mosquitoes, sandflies, fleas and heartworm depending on the country.

**Please speak to us about protecting your pet before you travel.**

Contact with a local vet in the destination country will help provide a more accurate indicator of diseases against which your pet should be protected and will also create a point of contact should veterinary care be required.

25<sup>th</sup> July 2011