

Travelling with your pet within the EU – pet owners guide to Animal Health Certificates/PTDs

This guidance applies to people travelling to and from Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) with their pet cats, ferrets or dogs. This guidance is only applicable for travel of up to 5 pets for non-commercial reasons. You need to follow these guidelines to travel between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as between Great Britain and the EU. Travel to countries outside the EU is not covered in these guidelines.

Please remember, it is the responsibility of the owner (or person(s) transporting the pets) to know the requirements of travel for all countries travelled to and through, not your veterinary practice. We can provide guidance where appropriate, and complete the appointments for rabies vaccinations, certification, tapeworm treatments and any other necessary health checks you require. You must provide all supporting documents and information we request in order to complete these appointments correctly, otherwise we may not be able to provide you with certification.

In order to travel to an EU country from Great Britain, your pet will need:

- a microchip
 - a valid rabies vaccination
 - tapeworm treatment for dogs if travelling directly to Finland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, or Malta
 - Travel documentation:
 - an **Animal Health Certificate (AHC)** issued by an Official Veterinarian in GB.
- OR
- a **pet passport** issued in an EU country ONLY VALID IF YOUR PRIMARY RESIDENCE IS IN THE EU

As of 4/6/2025, all dogs travelling from Great Britain to Northern Ireland will require a Northern Ireland Pet Travel Document (PTD).

- The PTD is free to apply for, valid for as long as you own your dog, and can be obtained from the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad/travelling-to-northern-ireland>
- The only requirement for a PTD is that your dog must be microchipped.
- If you're travelling **only** to Northern Ireland, no rabies vaccination, Animal Health Certificate or tapeworm treatment is needed - just the PTD.

You will need to go through a travelers' point of entry when you arrive in an EU country with your pet. A list of these can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/eu-legislation/non-commercial-non-eu/tpe_en

Always check the rules of the country you are travelling to or through for any additional restrictions or requirements before you travel – it is your responsibility to check the current rules for travel and arrange the appropriate documents.

In order to enter (or re-enter) Great Britain from the EU, your pet will need:

- **Travel documentation:**
 - an **Animal Health Certificate (AHC)** issued in GB – which you can use to re-enter GB for up to 6 months after the date of issue.

OR

- a **pet passport** issued in an EU country (only valid **IF YOUR PRIMARY RESIDENCE IS IN THE EU**)
OR
- • a **GB pet health certificate** (for travel *into* GB only) – needed if your AHC is out of date
- **Tapeworm treatment** (dogs only) recorded on the travel document (unless entering GB directly from Finland, Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Norway, or Malta). You'll need to take your dog to a vet for an approved tapeworm treatment, no less than 24 hours and no more than 120 hours (5 days) before entering GB. Your dog will not be allowed back in Great Britain unless this has been completed.

Your pet's documents and microchip will be checked when entering GB.

EU residents travelling to and from the UK

If you are resident in the EU and your pet has an EU passport, this can be used for travel in and out of GB. If their rabies booster vaccination is due close to the period of travel, please have the rabies vaccination done in your EU country of residence before travel. **UK vets are not authorised to complete rabies vaccination details in an EU passport.**

The Animal Health Certificate

The AHC is an official document confirming your pet's eligibility to travel. The certificate will be in English and the language of the **first EU country which you will enter.**

Your pet's animal health certificate will be valid from the date of issue for:

- 10 days for entry into the EU (including ROI)
- 6 months for onward travel within the EU
- 6 months for re-entry to Great Britain

Your pet will need a new animal health certificate for each trip to an EU country from Great Britain.

You can book an appointment with one of our Official Veterinarians to get an animal health certificate by calling the practice. Please give us as much notice as possible when booking - we cannot guarantee last minute appointment availability for these. This is due to the significant time required before and during the appointment to prepare the documentation, and that only a limited number of vets are certified to issue these documents.

The cost of the AHC is £250 for the first pet, and £50 for each additional pet (up to a maximum of 5). Clients not previously registered with us have an additional surcharge of £72 administration fee.

We will need some additional information from you at least 7 days before the appointment to issue the AHC – please complete the questionnaire on the last 2 pages of this document and return it to us as soon as possible.

In addition, if your pet's rabies vaccination was administered at another practice, we **must** see proof of your pet's microchip number and rabies vaccination history. This may be in the form of a vaccination card (which must have the microchip number on) or a copy of your pet's medical history from their previous vet. In order for us to certify the document, there must be written confirmation in that document, by a vet, that the microchip was checked at the time of the rabies vaccination being administered.

UK to EU Pet Travel Information Form

Please complete this form and return it to The Veterinary Hospital a minimum of 7 days before the appointment for your AHC –it can be emailed to vethosp@tiscali.co.uk or delivered as a paper copy.

In addition, if your pet's rabies vaccination was administered at another practice, we must see proof of your pet's **microchip and rabies vaccination history**. Please send these as soon as possible in case we need to contact the original vet who administered the vaccine.

Please note that the owner who completes this form **MUST** be the person who attends the AHC appointment, and their details **MUST** match the person registered as the owner with us, and be named as owner on the proof of rabies vaccination and identichip records.

If the owner is not going to be travelling to the EU with their pet, they will need to provide a written authorisation that the person who will be travelling with the pet has permission to transport them. This must be presented at the AHC appointment, and **both people** should attend the appointment.

If the owner is using a designated carrier but joining their pet in the EU within 5 days, the carrier will need evidence that the owner will be traveling within 5 days of the pet (eg flight ticket and copy of owners passport)- this may be requested by the authorities checking documentation at the border.

Please complete the questionnaire below. The animal details must match those on the microchip and rabies vaccination history.

Owner's name (title, first name, surname): _____

Owner's address (house name/number, street, town/city, county, postcode):

Telephone number (mobile preferred): _____

Point of entry into the EU (Which EU member state are you entering FIRST): _____

Complete the following for each of the pets you are travelling (maximum 5):

Species: Dog/cat /ferret	Sex: female /male	Colour:	Breed:	Microchip number:	Date of Birth:

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Who will be travelling with the pet (please select one, and provide further details if appropriate):

- Owner (must be the same owner as detailed above)
- Person who has authorisation in writing from the owner to travel with the pet (you must provide this to the person, and bring it to the AHC appointment, and both people should attend).

- (name, address, phone number) _____

- Designated carrier contracted by the owner to travel with the pet (will need written authorisation and be able to provide evidence of the owner traveling within 5 days of the pet - see above)

- (name, address, phone number) _____

Tapeworm treatment is required when dogs travel from Great Britain to EU listed tapeworm free countries including Northern Ireland, Malta, Ireland, and Finland. These dogs must be treated for tapeworm not more than 120 hours and not less than 24 hours before time of entry into one of these countries. Please select from one of the following options (not applicable to cats or ferrets):

I am travelling with my dog to: Malta Ireland (ROI) Finland None of these

Before returning to Great Britain dogs must be treated for tapeworm by a vet, not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours before time of entry (except for return from Northern Ireland, Finland, Ireland, or Malta). The vet must sign and stamp the AHC at the time of treatment. If you are leaving Great Britain on a short trip returning within 120 hours you can have this treatment administered before leaving.

I declare that the information entered above is accurate and correct. By submitting this form, I agree that The Veterinary Hospital (or its agents) will use this information to complete an Animal Health Certificate (AHC) and any errors or omissions in the information I have provided may invalidate this AHC. Any invalidation of an AHC caused by errors or omissions in this form is entirely at my own risk.

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____