

PET TRAVEL TO THE EU (incl. Rep. of Ireland)

Dogs and cats travelling to the EU after 11pm on 31st December 2020 will need the following:

- a microchip
- a rabies vaccination
- travel cannot begin until 21 days after the rabies vaccination
- the pet has to be at least 6 months old in order to travel
- an Animal Health Certificate (AHC) issued by the APHA-appointed Official Veterinarian (OV)
- **dogs** travelling to or through Malta, Finland or Ireland need a tapeworm treatment administered by the OV at least 24h and no more than 5 days prior to arrival in the country of destination

Note: If you are travelling **directly** between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and **not** onwards to Ireland or the EU, please apply for the Northern Ireland Pet Travel Document:
<https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad/travelling-to-northern-ireland>

Each AHC is valid for:

- a single entry into the EU within 10 days of the date of issue
- onward travel within the EU for 4 months from the date of issue
- a single return into the UK within 4 months from the date of issue
- The AHC cannot be re-used even if you are travelling in and out of the UK more than once during the same 4-month period. Each trip needs its own AHC.

If your pet's rabies vaccination expires during the journey, the AHC becomes invalid on that date.

The AHC is issued for a specific country of entry, and it will not be valid if you change your country of entry into the EU.

Returning to the UK:

- dogs returning from EU (except from Malta, Finland and the Rep. of Ireland) need a tapeworm treatment administered by a veterinarian at least 24h and no more than 5 days prior to arrival

If your pet has an EU pet passport, this will remain valid until the rabies vaccination goes out of date. On the date that the rabies vaccination became invalid, you will require another rabies vaccination in an EU country [if the rabies vaccination is given in the UK, your pet passport becomes invalid!] or an AHC.

While we do our best to give you the most up to date advice, rules and regulations are changing constantly. It is your responsibility as the owner to ensure that you are aware of all the travel, vaccination and parasite treatment rules for your pet and book your appointments with the vet in accordance with the required treatment schedule. For guidance on pet travel, go to: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-from-1-january-2021>; Pet Travel Scheme helpline: pettravel@apha.gov.uk; Tel.: 03000 200 301