

Post-Brexit pet travel guide for owners

This guidance applies to people travelling to and from **Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales)** with their pet cats, ferrets or dogs, including assistance dogs. This guidance is only 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 other non-EU countries is not covered in these guidelines.

Travelling into an EU country or Northern Ireland from Great Britain

You can no longer use a pet passport issued in Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) for travel to an EU country or Northern Ireland. You can still use a pet passport issued in an EU country or Northern Ireland (for Northern Ireland see additional guidance below).

When travelling to an EU country or Northern Ireland, your pet needs:

- a [microchip](#) placed or read before any rabies vaccination
- a valid [rabies vaccination](#) at least 21 days before certification and when the pet was at least 12 weeks of age
- an [animal health certificate](#) (AHC) unless you have a pet passport issued by an EU country to be obtained no more than 10 days before travel
- [tapeworm treatment](#) for dogs if you're travelling directly to Finland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, or Malta

You will need to go through a [travellers' point of entry](#) when you arrive in an EU country or Northern Ireland. 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.

Repeat trips to an EU country or Northern Ireland

Your pet will need a new [animal health certificate](#) for each trip to an EU country or Northern Ireland.

Your pet will not need a repeat [rabies vaccination](#) so long as their rabies vaccinations are up to date.

Getting an Animal Health Certificate

You must book an appointment with one of our Official Veterinarian's to get an animal health certificate. The certificate will be specific to the country you are entering the EU through but can then be used for onwards travel through other EU countries. You need the certificate no more than 10 days before you travel. Please give us as much notice as possible when booking the appointment.

We cannot guarantee a last minute appointment for an Animal Health Certificate, this is due to the significant time required before and during the appointment, and that only Official Veterinarians can issue AHCs.

We will request you to send us information about your pet and the travel in advance of your appointment. When booking the appointment, please tell us the country of entry to the EU you will be using.

When you come to your appointment for the Animal Health Certificate, you must bring proof of your pet's:

- [microchipping](#) date
- rabies [vaccination](#) history

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

- 10 days for entry into the EU or Northern Ireland
- 4 months for onward travel within the EU
- 4 months for re-entry to Great Britain

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

Contact us for estimates of costs for Animal Health Certificates.

Travelling into Great Britain with your pet

An EU pet passport issued in a member state is still valid to **enter** GB.

Before they enter GB, all pets must be:

- [microchipped](#)
- vaccinated against rabies (must be at least 12 weeks old before vaccinated)

Travellers from the EU need to wait 21 days after the first vaccination before travel into GB (not for boosters as long as done before the due date)

Travel from countries not free from tapeworm (*Echinococcus multilocularis*)

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.

Pet travel documents

Your pet must have one of the following documents when entering or returning to GB:

- an EU pet passport issued in the EU (or in GB if issued before 1 January 2021), or a pet passport from another Part 1 listed third country
- the animal health certificate (AHC) issued in GB used to travel to the EU – which you can use to re-enter GB for up to 4 months after it was issued

- a GB pet health certificate (for travel into GB only) – this is needed if your AHC is out of date

Check routes and travel companies

[Check the routes before you travel](#). You must travel using approved routes. Your pet's documents and microchip will be checked when entering GB.

Owners of assistance dogs returning to GB do not have to travel on approved routes. You must notify the point of entry in advance that you're travelling with an assistance dog to ensure the appropriate checks are done.

EU residents travelling to and from the UK

If your pet has an EU passport and their rabies booster 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 no longer authorised to complete rabies vaccination details in an EU passport.**

Additional guidance for people travelling to and from Northern Ireland with their pet cats, ferrets or dogs, including assistance dogs.

Between Northern Ireland and the EU

From 1 January 2021, EU pet travel rules will continue to apply to Northern Ireland. This includes the need to have a pet passport** and a rabies vaccination. There will be no change to the requirements governing pet travel between NI and the EU including the Republic of Ireland (ROI).

From Great Britain to Northern Ireland

It has been confirmed that from 1 January 2021, Great Britain (GB) will be treated as a Part II listed country. This means that pet travel from GB to NI, including where a traveller is returning to NI from GB, will require:

- an EU pet passport** or an Animal Health Certificate
- rabies vaccination with a 21 day wait from the successful rabies vaccination
- tapeworm treatment
- entry to NI via a Travellers Point of Entry (TPE) at Belfast Port; Larne Port, Belfast International, Belfast City or City of Derry Airports.

Northern Ireland residents already in GB needing to travel back

On 1 January 2021 it is expected that a number of pet owners will be unable to comply with the EU Pet Travel Regulation, for movement of pets between GB and NI. For example, pet owners who have already travelled from NI to GB and intend to return following the Christmas period. Pets travelling from GB to NI will therefore not be subject to routine compliance checks until 1 February 2021.

**Current EU pet passports issued in NI and GB up to 31 December 2020, will not be valid for travel to the EU (including NI) after the 31 December 2020. Interim measures have been put in place. If you are travelling in early 2021, you should contact your vet in Northern Ireland who will arrange to update your pet passport appropriately to allow travel. A new style UK (NI) branded EU Pet Passport will be available shortly and these will be distributed to veterinary practices in Northern Ireland in due course.

Help and support

You can contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) if you've got questions or need more information.

Travel to the EU or Northern Ireland

Contact the Pet Travel Scheme helpline if you need more information about pet travel.

Pet Travel Scheme helpline

pettravel@apha.gov.uk

Telephone: 0370 241 1710

Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm (closed on bank holidays)

[Find out about call charges](#)

Travel to a non-EU country

Contact APHA if you need more information about pet travel to a non-EU country.

Animal and Plant Health Agency

exports@apha.gov.uk

Telephone: 03000 200 301

Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm

[Find out about call charges](#)

If you have questions specific to Northern Ireland

Trade Section

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Summary

Please read our full guidance before arranging travel with your pet. Further guidance is available from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-and-from-great-britain>

The main change for pet travel out of GB is that **UK pet passports are no longer valid** for travel into the EU. An **Animal Health Certificate** is now required for each trip to the EU, unless your animal already has a valid **non-UK EU passport**, issued in an EU country.

Summary of requirements for travel from GB to the EU or NI:

- Microchip
- Rabies vaccination (at least 21 days before certification, and when the pet was at least 12 weeks of age)
- AHC (Animal Health Certificate) no more than 10 days before travel
 - Or a valid non-UK EU passport
- Tapeworm treatment if travelling to Finland, Northern Ireland, Ireland or Malta (to be given and certified by a veterinarian 24-120 hours before entry to EU/NI)
- Entry must be through a Traveller's Point of Entry

Travelling back to GB

- Microchip
- Rabies vaccination (at least 21 days before travel/certification, and when the pet was at least 12 weeks of age)
- AHC that was used to exit GB can be used to come back within 4 months
 - Or UK passport supplied before 31/12/2020
 - Or EU passport issued in the EU
- Tapeworm treatment unless travelling from Finland, Northern Ireland, Ireland or Malta (to be given and certified in the original AHC or the valid passport by a veterinarian 24-120 hours before entry to GB)
- You must enter GB via an Approved Route (except for assistance dogs)

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 bring 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.

UK to EU pet travel form

Please complete this form and return to The Veterinary Hospital in advance of your pre-travel appointment.

Please also provide, PRIOR to your appointment, proof of rabies vaccination, and proof of identification of the pet. If you have a Pet Passport for your pet that was issued before 31/12/2020 this will suffice. If you do not have a Pet Passport for your pet then please bring your vaccination card that shows the current rabies vaccination, and a document confirming your pet's identichip number (this can be acquired from the microchip company).

Please make sure you tick the declaration at the end of this form.

Please note that the owner who signs this form must match the person named on the proof of rabies vaccination and identichip number. This same person must attend the AHC appointment, as they will need to sign the AHC. If the owner is not travelling with the pet, they will need to provide a written authorisation to the person who will be travelling with the pet, which must be presented at the time of AHC appointment, and both people should attend.

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

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

Telephone number (only one please, mobile preferred):

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

Proposed date of travel to the EU:

Species of pet (dog, cat, or ferret) and how many of each you are travelling with (maximum 5 pets):

For each pet you are travelling with, please provide the following details:

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

*For Pet's sex please state female, female neutered, male, or male neutered.

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

- Owner
- 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)
 - (name, address, phone number)
- Designated carrier contracted by the owner to travel with the pet
 - (name, address, phone number)

Tapeworm treatment is required when travelling 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:

- Northern Ireland
- Malta
- Ireland
- Finland
- None of the above

NB before returning to Great Britain dogs must be treated for tapeworm not less than 24 hours, not more than 120 hours before time of entry except for return from Northern Ireland, Finland, Ireland, or Malta. You must take your AHC with you for this treatment to a vet in the EU country you are in.

If you are leaving Great Britain on a short trip returning within 120 hours you need to have this treatment done 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.