

# TRAVELLING ABROAD WITH YOUR PET

## THE PET TRAVEL SCHEME

Since the introduction of the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) it has been possible to travel abroad with your pets without them having to undergo 6 months' quarantine on return to the UK. Pets traveling in Europe need to be accompanied by a **European Union Pet Passport**. This document provides a record for all travel requirements to qualifying countries.

### Requirements for a pet passport:

A microchip must be implanted **BEFORE** the animal is vaccinated against Rabies

An approved vaccine against Rabies should be given once the animal is over three months of age.

For return to the UK 21 days must elapse between vaccination and travel/re-entry into the UK.

### Other requirements:

Animals must be treated for tapeworms 24-120 hours (1-5 days) **before re-entry** into the UK (to be administered by a vet). For day/short trips this can be done before leaving the UK. All treatments should be entered in the pet passport (by an Official Veterinarian).

If the animal is visiting a country not listed under the PETS scheme a blood sample should be taken to ensure protection against Rabies has achieved the required level. A period of three months must then elapse before re-entry to the UK. The blood sample is usually taken 3-4 weeks after vaccination.

### ESTIMATED COSTS:

MICROCHIP IMPLANT 10.80

RABIES VACCINATION 50.76

PASSPORT CERTIFICATION 72.07

If travelling outside PETS listed countries:

BLOOD SAMPLING 12.05

BLOOD TEST (LAB FEES) 64.38

A full list of PETS countries can be found on the DEFRA website [www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

If you are unsure whether your travel arrangements will be covered by the PET PASSPORT Scheme, please contact your local Animal Health Office:

**South East:** Tel: 01162 778150

Chelmsford Animal Health Office Fax: 01162 770153

AHROSouthEast@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk

**Midlands:** Tel: 01162 787451

Leicester Animal Health Office Fax: 01162 770153

## TRAVELLING WITH YOUR PET

**The welfare of your pet is paramount.** Please consider carefully the conditions that your pet will encounter on a trip abroad when deciding whether to take your pet on holiday. Think about needs during the journey (food, water, temperature, exercise etc.) and the facilities available at the other end, before deciding whether it is in the best interest of the animal to join you on your holiday.

Please be aware that your pet may be exposed to diseases that do not normally occur in Great Britain. It will have no natural immunity to such diseases and therefore precautions should be taken to minimise the risk of transmission.

### Tick borne diseases

Ehrlichia and Babesia are intracellular parasites which can be transmitted by ticks when they feed. Babesia invades the red blood cells and can cause life threatening shock, anaemia and jaundice, whereas Erlichia invade the white blood cells and interferes with blood clotting. It

causes fever, lameness due to arthritis and may affect the bone-marrow. Both of these are serious diseases and symptoms may not show up for some time after your return from holiday. While it is not a legal requirement to treat for ticks before returning to the UK we would strongly recommend that your pet is sprayed against ticks for the duration of your holiday, **Fipronil-based** products provide 1 month's protection against ticks in both the spray and spot-on formulations. However as there is no product available that kills tick instantaneously or prevents them attaching it is advisable to avoid high risk areas and check your pet daily to remove any ticks seen.

### **Leishmaniosis**

This is a serious disease spread by biting sand-flies. It can cause a variety of symptoms, some potentially life threatening. Treatment is possible but rarely curative more commonly leading to a remission of disease. Sandflies are prevalent in wooded areas as well as beaches, but can be encountered in many different environments. To minimise exposure it is recommended that pets are kept away from risk areas especially at dawn and dusk which are the times of maximum sand-fly activity.

Insect repellents should also be used. Human preparations are suitable and special collars are available from pet shops on the continent, or we can order these. It should also be noted that Leishmania can cause disease in humans.

### **Heartworm**

This is a parasitic worm spread mosquito bites. The worm travels in the circulation to live in the pulmonary artery, the main blood vessel from the heart to the lungs. Infection can cause coughing, breathing difficulties and heart failure. As treatment can be dangerous it is better to use preventative treatments. Please ask for advice.

### **Rabies**

While your pet will have been vaccinated against Rabies before going abroad any bite from a dog, cat or wild animal should still be treated seriously. The wound should be thoroughly washed with a strong soap solution and professional advice sought immediately.

### **INSURANCE**

Before taking your pet abroad it is advised that you check that your pet insurance covers you not only for veterinary treatment while abroad but also for continued cover when you return for any disease contracted abroad.

Several companies now provide specific cover for pets travelling abroad.

### **RETURNING TO THE UK**

To enter or re-enter the UK without quarantine, an animal must in order, be micro-chipped and vaccinated against rabies, issued with a PET PASSPORT and treated against tapeworms (see above).

### **TRAVEL CHECKLIST**

- Check country of travel is covered by PETS
- Microchip
- Rabies vaccination
- Obtain passport from Official Vet
- Make arrangements with travel companies/ports
- Arrange/check insurance cover
- Discuss preventative medicine/parasite control
- Ensure you have sufficient supplies of any current medication
- Organise tapeworm treatment (by a vet) 1-5 days before re-entry into the UK. For short trips this may be done before leaving.

**Your pet may be refused entry if you do not have the correct paperwork**