

# Bringing pets into the UK after 1 January 2012



## **On the 1 January 2012, the rules for bringing your pet dog, cat or ferret into the UK changed.**

The previous rules for pets coming into the UK no longer apply, see [www.defra.gov.uk/pets](http://www.defra.gov.uk/pets)

## **Don't delay – find out the rules in plenty of time before you travel.**

If you wish to return to the UK with your pet after a trip abroad, or intend to bring your pet into the UK for the first time, you need to be aware of the changes to the UK pet entry rules which took effect on 1 January 2012.

## **You are responsible for ensuring your pet meets all the rules for entering the UK.**

Make sure you have had the procedures carried out in the correct order and your pet's documentation is correctly completed. If you do not, your pet may not be able to enter the country or may have to be licensed into quarantine on arrival. This will mean delay and will cost you money.

## **Rules depend on which country you are travelling into the UK from:**

- EU member states – see Part A
- Approved non-EU countries – listed overleaf but please check [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/) for latest details – see Part A
- Non-approved countries (not in EU or not listed overleaf) – see Part B

# Approved non-EU countries and territories

Andorra	Curacao*	Norway
Antigua & Barbuda	Falkland Islands	Russian Federation*
Argentina	Fiji	Saint Maarten*
Aruba	French Polynesia	San Marino
Ascension Island	Guam	Singapore
Australia	Hawaii	St Helena
Bahrain	Hong Kong	St Kitts & Nevis
Barbados	Iceland	St Lucia
Belarus	Jamaica*	St Pierre & Miquelon
Bermuda	Japan	St Vincent & The Grenadines
BES Islands (Bonair, Saint Eustatius and Saba)*	Liechtenstein	Switzerland
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Malaysia*	Taiwan
British Virgin Islands	Mauritius	Trinidad and Tobago
Canada	Mayotte	United Arab Emirates*
Cayman Islands	Mexico	USA (mainland)
Chile	Monaco	Vanuatu
Croatia	Montserrat	Vatican
	New Caledonia	Wallis & Futuna
	New Zealand	

\*asterisk indicates specific information relating to these countries, so please go to [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/) for latest list.



# Is your pet prepared?

## PART A Entry to the UK from other EU Member States and approved non-EU countries:

For your pet to enter the UK from these countries, you must answer 'yes' to the following questions:

- Is it microchipped<sup>1</sup>?
- Is it currently vaccinated against rabies?
- Was it vaccinated after it was microchipped and was the rabies vaccination administered as per the vaccine manufacturer's data sheet?
- Have you got an EU Pet Passport or Official Veterinary Health Certificate<sup>2</sup> from your vet certifying the microchip and vaccination?
- Have at least 21 days passed since it was vaccinated?
- Are you travelling into the UK with your pet on an approved route with an approved transport company?<sup>5</sup>
- Has a vet treated your dog for tapeworm 1-5 days before its arrival in the UK and recorded the treatment (with exact times) in the passport or Official Health Certificate?

## PART B Entry to the UK from non-approved countries:

For your pet to enter the UK from these countries, you must answer 'yes' to the following questions:

- Is it microchipped<sup>1</sup>?
- Is it currently vaccinated against rabies?
- Was it vaccinated after being microchipped and was the rabies vaccination administered as per the vaccine manufacturer's data sheet?
- Was a blood sample for a blood test taken **at least 30 days** after it was vaccinated?<sup>3</sup> Has it passed the blood test?<sup>4</sup> (your vet will tell you)
- Have you got an EU Pet Passport or Official Veterinary Health Certificate<sup>2</sup> from your vet certifying the microchip, vaccination and blood test result?
- Have three months passed since the date the blood sample was taken?
- Are you travelling into the UK with your pet on an approved route?<sup>5</sup>
- Has a vet treated your dog for tapeworm 1-5 days before its arrival in the UK and recorded the treatment (with exact times) in the passport or Official Health Certificate?

1 A tattoo is acceptable as identification in certain circumstances. See website for more information.

2 Official Veterinary Health Certificates are issued by non-EU countries only.

3 The blood sample must be sent to an EU approved laboratory for testing.

4 If your pet was successfully blood tested and issued with an EU pet passport before it left the UK or other EU country to go to a non-approved country, the three-month waiting period before re-entering the UK will not apply (but all other rules still apply, including the requirement for the blood sample to be taken at least 30 days after vaccination).

5 Assistance dog owners can use any approved air, sea or rail route. See our website for further information.

# Further information

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## **Travelling abroad with your pet**

UK pet owners wishing to take their pets abroad should contact the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) for details of the export certification requirements for the destination country. Email: [CatandDogExports.Carlisle@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CatandDogExports.Carlisle@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk)

## **To find out more detail**

This document only contains a summary of the rules, so please go to the website for the latest and comprehensive details on the rules for pet travel into the UK.

Website: [www.defra.gov.uk/pets](http://www.defra.gov.uk/pets)

Email: [pettravel@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pettravel@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk)

Helpline: +44 (0)870 241 1710

